

# THE TIMES

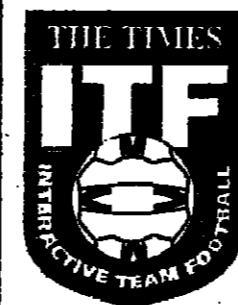
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No. 65,763

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996



**FRANCES LAWRENCE**  
Why my fight goes on PAGE 13



PLAY THE  
£50,000  
GAME  
See how your  
players are  
performing  
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I'VE GOT A  
LITTLE LIST  
How children are  
calling the shots  
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REUTERS

£150m bill for killing 'at risk' cattle

## Beef export ban remains despite cull

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BRENNER

EUROPE told Britain yesterday that the world ban on British beef would remain in force indefinitely, in spite of the Government's decision to slaughter 100,000 cattle most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government was going ahead with the £150 million cull — first mooted in July and then suspended in September — because it was the only way to make any progress on lifting the ban. "It is a political fact, not a scientific fact," he told MPs. "If we do not commit ourselves to a selective cull, then we are certain not to see any progress of any kind."

But even before his Commons statement, the European Commission ruled out any swift lifting of the ban, and one senior Conservative predicted that it could last for years.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, made clear that Britain must go through all the EU's decision-making hurdles before there could be any softening of the embargo. And Mr Hogg, who will meet fellow farm ministers in Brussels today, admitted that Britain would not secure a timetable. He told MPs that they "should not be under any illusion as to how quickly a selective cull will lead to a resumption of exports of British beef".

Mr Fischler said that he had not been told officially about Britain's decision to cull an extra 100,000 cattle and it was up to the Government to put forward a detailed request to start the machinery agreed at the Florence summit in June. "I don't see any need to depart from what was agreed upon," he said. "I think we need to move forward step by step as agreed."

That means that a British request probably to ease the ban on grass-fed herds cert-

fied as BSE-free, must pass through various committees including the Standing Veterinary Committee. At best, that could take weeks.

Euro-sceptics were glum about the announcement, seeing it as another U-turn in the face of Brussels pressure. John Townsend said: "Many of us just don't trust our European friends and we think they are going to keep this ban going for year after year."

But Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, welcomed the announcement, while calling for extra financial help for farmers who would lose a substantial proportion of their herds. "We are not happy at the idea of many thousands of healthy animals being culled", he said. "But we have long accepted that the Florence agreement had to be honoured by Britain and that this was the only way to start lifting the export ban."

A few farmers could lose up to half or more of their herds under the selective cull. Under the proposals published last July, the Government envisaged paying the market price for culled cattle with extra money for farmers who lose 10 per cent or more of their herds. The Treasury will pick up 90

million of the compensation bill and the EU the rest. The decision to go ahead with the cull after all was announced as ministers tried to avoid a defeat in last night's Commons vote on fishing, where the result appeared to hinge on the Ulster Unionists. They were pleased by the beef decision but unimpressed by assurances that ministers would seek higher fish quotas for Northern Ireland.

The decision also coincided with the Prime Minister's report on the European summit in Dublin, in which he told MPs that the Community was facing a "moment of truth". It was a delusion to think that Britain could exist outside the EU, but the country under his leadership would have no part of Franco-German plans that would lead to an "embryonic superstate".

He signalled that radical changes proposed by some members would be either blocked or would go ahead without British involvement. The choices over the next few months would determine not only the success and stability of Europe as a whole, but Britain's relationship with it.

Although he criticised those who "peddled the delusion" that Britain could leave the EU, John Major appeared to hint at an arms-length relationship if an inner core of countries went ahead with elements of political union that Britain opposed. "Those who want to integrate further in particular areas should not be frustrated unreasonably although, if they wish to use EU institutions [such as the European Court of Justice], they can only proceed through unanimity. Those who do not must not be forced into unwilling obligations which build up resentment."

Matthew Parris and BSE about-turn, page 2  
Leading article, page 15

from where their business, Boyden Brothers, is run. Mrs Boyden added that she and her husband John knew the princess well. "We don't yet know the date for the wedding though," she said.

Mr Boyden is a former pupil of the now defunct Dartington Hall School, in Dartington, Devon. He studied business administration at Oxford Brookes University, focusing particularly on business ethics and human rights, before becoming a management consultant.

Princess Zahra, 26, the oldest of the Aga Khan and Princess Salimah's three children, has worked for her father, leader of the world's four million Ismaili Muslims and directly descended from the Prophet Mohammed,



Mark Boyden and Princess Zahra: they met in France two years ago and are expected to marry in the summer

## Aga Khan's daughter to wed Briton

By CAROL MIDDLETON AND SUSAN BELL

PRINCESS Zahra, the only daughter of the Aga Khan, has become engaged to a farmer's son from Dorset, it was announced yesterday.

Mark Boyden, 35, a management consultant who is also involved with his parents' farming business, met the princess through friends two years ago in France. They are expected to marry next summer.

The Aga Khan announced the engagement yesterday in a notice issued by his secretary in Aiglemont, near Chantilly, France. Mr Boyden's mother, Patricia, said: "We are delighted, very happy indeed, but we have been asked to refer all queries to the Aga Khan's office."

Speaking at the family farm in Cheselborne, Dorchester,

since graduating from Harvard University in 1994.

The announcement said she was "actively involved in social development activities, focusing particularly on women's development and the provision of safety nets for the very poor in Africa and Asia."

She and Mr Boyden will divide their time between England and France and the princess will continue to work for her father.

Recently she followed in his footsteps by becoming involved in racehorse ownership, registering her own dark green and brown colours.

Her parents divorced last year with an estimated £50 million settlement for her mother, the former model Sally Croker-Poole, 56. Mr Boyden has one older sister, Jo, who is under-

stood to be working as an academic in Oxford.

Princess Zahra has two brothers, Prince Rahim, 25, and Prince Hussain, 22. A family friend was once quoted as saying: "Zahra has easily the nicest personality of the three children and while Rahim will eventually succeed their father she will be a great asset. She has a tremendous sense of humour and is a lot of fun to be with."

Formula 1 in chaos, page 40

## Judges urged to quit Freemasons

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary. The information has been gathered by the 500-strong Association of Women Barristers

## Smoking fathers may cause cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ONE in seven of all childhood cancers may be caused by fathers who smoke, a new study has shown. The more a man smokes, the greater the risk becomes.

Strong evidence of the damaging effects of smoking has come from data gathered more than 40 years ago and re-examined by a team from Birmingham University. It showed a "highly significant" association between fathers who smoked and children who died of cancer, says Dr Sorahan of the university.

Seized on the new figures, a spokeswoman for Action on Smoking and Health said: "Women have known for a long time that by smoking during pregnancy they are damaging the health of their unborn babies. Now men will have to accept that by smoking they are not only putting their own health at risk, but also that of their children as well."

The tobacco industry is likely to argue that the increased risk is so small as to be statistically meaningless. Last summer Philip Morris Europe

ran an advertising campaign arguing that passive smoking — the risks of which are of the same order as those found by the new study — is not a proper cause for concern.

Sir Richard Doll of Oxford University, the doyen of smoking studies who first linked smoking to lung cancer, was cautious in interpreting the results. "It's a good study, but the statistics are not all that compelling," he said. "Other studies on the subject have

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Sir Laurens, mentor to Prince, dies

Sir Laurens van der Post, writer, explorer, mystic and a major influence on the Prince of Wales, has died two days after his ninetieth birthday. (Alan Hamilton writes).

The Prince's office said last night that he had been "deeply saddened" by the death of a dear and long-standing friend, Lucia Crichton-Miller, Sir Laurens's daughter, said her father died at his London home on Sunday.

Obituary, page 17

Halifax Building Society shares could be hit by a FTSE 100 listing delay

## Amis switches publishers in mid-contract for £1m

By DALYA ALBERGE  
AND JASON COWLEY

MARTIN AMIS has fallen out with the publishing house that offered him a record-breaking £500,000 contract less than a year ago. He has signed a four-book deal with his original publisher, Jonathan Cape, an imprint of Random House, thought to be worth considerably more than £1 million.

The deal catapults Amis into the super league of British millionaire novelists headed by Jeffrey Archer, Jackie Collins and Salman Rushdie. He surprised the

literary world yesterday by announcing his split with HarperCollins, even though he is yet to fulfil his promised two-book contract. It was unclear whether he would still have to deliver to HarperCollins a volume of short stories.

The move was orchestrated by Andrew Wylie, the New York agent known in the trade as The Jackal. He has upset many by luring Amis away from his original agency, Peter, Fraser and Dunlop. Sources close to the agency said it was highly unorthodox for an author to break such a contract "especially as the original negotiations surrounding it were so

acrimonious". One observed: "The real victim is HarperCollins. There are many fine nuances at play, involving writers' ego, testosterone and literary envy. Martin never used to be that interested in money. I hear things have changed."

An alternative view was provided by Louis Baum, the editor of *The Bookseller*: "It may be that because *The Information* did not perform as well as HarperCollins hoped — in other words, sales haven't earned back its advance — the publishing house was unwilling to commit itself to extending its contract with Amis."

Amis: four-book deal with Jonathan Cape

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ILIAN DUBSKY  
POUR HOMME  
ESSEY MYAKE

EAT ME TONIGHT

# Parents denied choice of schools

By JOHN O'LEARY  
AND DAVID CHARTER

MILLIONS of pounds are being wasted and tens of thousands of parents denied their first choice of school because of inefficiencies in the allocation of school places, government spending watchdogs will disclose today.

A highly critical report by the Audit Commission will say there is a wasteful mismatch between pupils and places, with one in six less than three-quarters full but one in three filled beyond capacity. The commission estimates that more than 300,000 empty places could be removed, releasing cash for other

purposes. The report, *Trading Places*, represents the first systematic examination of one of the main planks of the Government's education policy. The commission says there is little real choice for parents in many areas and popular schools are not expanding to cope with demand.

The report concludes: "Local authorities' attempts at intervention and management are hampered — sometimes by their own poor performance, but also by the defects of the national policy framework."

"Tackling the current shortcomings will require effort at both a local and a national level. These efforts could yield both financial savings, ultimately around £100 million."

A survey of ten local authorities found that almost one in five parents did not get their "genuine first preference" state secondary school in September 1995. The number of appeals was found to have increased by 44 per cent in the past three years.

Surplus provision should be removed if a school is less than 75 per cent full, the report says. Parents should be given better information on all schools in their area and schools should be monitored closely so that agencies can intervene before financial problems mount in unpopular schools. The commission makes clear that the market system set up by successive Acts on education has worked against the interests of

parents. It urges the Government to act to mend the "defects" of current policies. It says: "The desired outcomes of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the satisfaction of parental choice, will not be achieved automatically by the operation of the market alone."

The commission says there are many areas which could be improved and sets out a 14-point plan, with more than half the measures aimed at improving the performance of local authorities. Among these is a call for scrapping sixth forms if local agreements on collaboration and sharing of facilities cannot be reached in the search to cut costs.

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Major turns to government by confusion

In our frenzy over the detail of Tory policy, we are missing something more important: the creative genius of our Prime Minister. By stealth he is abandoning the ancient doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility.

It is quite refreshing. Other leaders pretend they have a frontbench position on important questions, but John Major hardly bothers. Yesterday, quizzed by Tony Blair on the Government's latest cattle cull, Mr Major repeated what has long been his line: that BSE policy is led by "the science". He murmured something about "changed scientific evidence" on maternal transmission to calves. "The science" had changed, so the policy had changed.

Not many minutes later Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, was on his feet, offering his own explanation for the increased cattle slaughter. It had little to do with science, Mr Hogg said. "The real justification for the cull is that unless we do the cull we will not get progress on lifting the ban. That is a political fact, not a scientific fact."

Mr Major says one thing: Mr Hogg says the opposite. Mr Blair was vexed about the confusion and used it to some effect in the House yesterday, mocking what he called the "serial incompetence" of the Government. But the chamber was half-empty and the press gallery listless. "Hell," we thought, "this is all such a mess, and anyway it's nearly Christmas." Pens dropped.

If, in a through-the-looking-glass world, key figures keep contradicting each other, there is only so much mileage to be had from pointing this out. After a while we tire of demonstrating what has already been demonstrated — that different voices are saying different things — and give up. Mr Major just keeps throwing sand in people's eyes until they take their buckets and

spades and quit the beach, leaving him alone with his sandcastle, which was what he wanted all along.

He seemed to be adopting this tactic on a broad front yesterday. Adopting his Mystic Meg voice and speaking in a strangely relaxed near-monotone, he told Euro-sceptic and Europhobic sleeve-tuggers (variously) that he would brook no fudging from Europe; that Britain's whole relationship with Europe was in the balance; that it wasn't and that he absolutely shared the worries of backbench colleague David Wilshire (Spelthorne) about anti-European feeling.

Ray Whitney (C, Wycombe) is so Europhile that he sounds like a simultaneous translation from French. To Mr Major's delight he commended to him a mysterious "middle way" called "realistic British Europeanism".

It is Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) is so bodily Europhobe that he turns up all but wiping the foam flecks from his mouth. He welcomed the Prime Minister's resolve to have no truck with EU demands. Mr Major agreed this was "essential".

Within minutes of each other, Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) and Edward Leigh (C, Gainsborough & Horncastle) had congratulated him warmly over Europe. Sir Patrick and Mr Leigh do not inhabit the same planet. Either the Prime Minister has two European policies or one of these gentlemen has misunderstood the policy he does have.

In fact they both misunderstood. Mr Major may have a view, but none of us has the least idea what it is. We find ourselves confronted by him as in a canyon we might be confronted by the rock face. The rock keeps its counsel. We hear only strange, mocking echoes of our own opinions.



Victoria Lowther, who died after a swift decline in health over four months

## About-turn on BSE meets EU conditions

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S agreement to carry out a selective cattle cull means that the Government has formally met all the conditions set at the EU summit in Florence in June for easing the ban on British beef.

At Florence the Government undertook to slaughter and destroy up to 147,000 cattle identified as being at particular risk of developing BSE. These were cattle born between 1989 and 1993 and reared on the same infected feed as animals that have died of BSE.

In September, the Cabinet had shelved plans for the cull, citing new scientific evidence that BSE would die out naturally around 2001 and that the slaughter would do little if anything to bring this date nearer. The Government has

now been forced to return to much the same plan it rejected only three months ago. One difference, as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons, is that only about 100,000 cattle will need to be culled because about 50,000 of those targeted in June have already been killed in the separate slaughter of animals over 30 months old.

Some 1.1 million older cattle have been destroyed since early May to reassure consumers that only young beef, the least likely to have been exposed to BSE, is entering the food chain.

Under the 30-month scheme, farmers can keep cows on their farms until the end of their working lives. Under the selective cull, which could affect about 2,000 herds,

stewards who ate cheap beef products in the late 1980s. Miss Lowther had no connection with cattle or meat production.

At first she was treated at the neurology unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Doctors allowed her to go home after they told her there was nothing more they could do for her.

Ian Morton, the coroner for North-East Cumbria, said he was satisfied that CJD was the cause of Miss Lowther's illness. He has decided not to hold an inquest into her death.

Every new case raises fears of an epidemic among young-

## UK public borrowing 'too high for Emu'

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S public borrowing is expected to be too high to qualify for membership of the European single currency, even if it decided that it wanted to join, according to an influential think-tank.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its latest economic outlook that, on the European definition of public borrowing, Britain's deficit next year is likely to amount to 3.7 per cent of gross domestic product. This is above the 3 per cent limit laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

Borrowing is forecast to fall to about the required 3 per cent level by 1998 but 1997 is the test year which will count when the euro "ins" and "outs" are decided.

Val Koronayos, the OECD's deputy director of the economic division, said the latest public borrowing projections had been made before last month's Budget but that the Chancellor's package of measures changed the figures only marginally. He said Britain's deficit was destined to be a "substantial way above" the Maastricht level.

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It may be that, in both these instances, tobacco smoked while drinking, or with hashish, is of greater importance than has hitherto been realised. Any effect on a baby of

## Male smokers should quit before conception

**MEDICAL BRIEFING**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

these substances when taken by the mother is presumably the result of an adverse effect on the developing foetus, whereas when abnormalities are the result of the lifestyle of the male, the influence is on the genetic structure of sperm.

Sperm are more easily influenced by toxins than is usually supposed. Despite their ability to swim so far, and against such odds, they are very fragile. Scientists have detected an increased number of abnormal forms, deterioration in numbers, less motility and less purposeful movement in the sperm of men who drink alcohol to excess and which has also been reported, in those who smoke cannabis.

It may be that, in both these instances, tobacco smoked while drinking, or with hashish, is of greater importance than has hitherto been realised. Any effect on a baby of

these substances when taken by the mother is presumably the result of an adverse effect on the developing foetus, whereas when abnormalities are the result of the lifestyle of the male, the influence is on the genetic structure of sperm.

Sperm are constantly being manufactured and the process is continuous, whereas a woman is born with her full complement of ova; therefore, the good news is that if the man stops smoking some months before conception there is every likelihood that his fertilising sperm will be as healthy as those of his non-smoking neighbour.

It is suggested that the effect of tobacco smoking on spermatogenesis may be the result of free radicals, those sinister, marauding, unattached electrons which can be so damaging to a wide variety of human

issues. Greater consumption before pregnancy is contemplated of anti-oxidants — vitamins C and E — and the carotenoids, as well as folic acid, which neutralise the free radicals, is a wise precaution, whether the parents are smokers or not.

The dangers to young children of having parents who smoke are already well documented. The mother who smokes during pregnancy is reported to have smaller, less intelligent babies, with all the attendant risks. If either partner continues to smoke after delivery, the children are more likely to have asthma, upper respiratory tract infections and to die from cot death. To these potential dangers will now have to be added childhood cancer, if the father has not given up his cigarettes several months before conception.

**Sperm 'may cause cancer'**

Continued from page 1  
reached different conclusions.

The new figures are drawn from the Oxford Survey of Childhood Cancers, which was started in the 1950s by Dr Alice Stewart. Now aged 90, she is a co-author of the new study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, welcomed the report, which was optimised in the outlook for growth, inflation and unemployment, but he did not respond to the OECD's pessimism on the public finances.

Germany may also miss the deficit limit, albeit by a small margin, according to the latest forecast by the Ifo economic institute in Munich. Ifo said it expects the German deficit to be 3.2 per cent of GDP in 1997.

The OECD's judgment on Britain's public finances is far less upbeat than the Chancellor's view at Budget time when he said that it was a "happy coincidence" that Britain's deficit would come down to within the Maastricht Treaty limits on cue in 1997.

a father's do. For a wide range of cancers, including leukaemia, neuroblastoma and bone cancer, the risks are increased.

The relationship holds good even when possible confounding factors such as class, age, and exposure of the mother to X-rays during pregnancy are taken into account, Dr Sorahan said.

"Smoking is already believed to alter the DNA of some sperm and our new findings suggest that it could lead to cancer-causing mutations," he said.

Whether today's milder cigarettes are having as great an effect as those smoked in the 1950s is uncertain.

Nor is it clear how soon a man would have to give up smoking to protect a future child.

The risk that a child will die of cancer is quite small."

Dr Sorahan said, "and smoking increases that risk by 20-30 per cent."

Professor Richard Petrie of Oxford University said that smokers spend their lives bathed in chemicals capable of causing genetic changes, so it would not be surprising if such chemicals damaged sperm.

Professor Gordon McVie, Director General of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "We already know that the majority of childhood cancers are caused by factors which occur prior to birth and it seems plausible that paternal smoking could be one of them."

The *British Journal of Cancer* also reports that breathing a mixture of oxygen and carbon dioxide can increase the potency of anti-cancer drugs.

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# Hospital gave prostate drug to woman with cramp



By Emma Wilkins

A PREGNANT woman who was admitted to hospital suffering stomach cramps was given a drug meant for men suffering prostate problems, it emerged yesterday. Pamela Graham, who is eight weeks pregnant, will have to wait until her baby is born to discover if it has suffered any damage.

Mrs Graham, an auxiliary community nurse from Redruth, Cornwall, called for an inquiry after Treliiske Hospital apologised for the mistake. "My major concern is for my baby. I am not interested in any compensation for myself, but

these mistakes should not occur," Mrs Graham said.

When she was admitted to the hospital earlier this month, Mrs Graham was initially given a bed in the men's section of a mixed ward before staff moved her next to other women.

Mrs Graham, who trained at the hospital five years ago, asked to be prescribed folic acid — a recommended supplement she had been taking for her baby's wellbeing. But she was given a tablet of Tamsulosin, a drug designed to alleviate prostate problems by relaxing the neck of the bladder. Mrs Graham took one tablet and was

given six more to take over the week but a staff nurse realised that a mistake had been made before she took any.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, which runs Treliiske Hospital, admitted the error and apologised. It is the latest in a series of blunders at the hospital, where a baby was sent home last year with a hypodermic needle in his back.

Mrs Graham has been told it is unlikely that her baby will be harmed but doctors cannot be sure until after the birth in August. She said: "Initially I was extremely angry but very quickly this turned into absolute disbelief. I am hoping

that an inquiry will not only

reinstate confidence in Treliiske Hospital but will also prevent any further problems occurring in the future.

"I will not feel particularly happy going back into Treliiske to deliver this baby. We will seriously consider a home birth."

A spokesman for the hospital trust said a review of dispensing procedure was under way. "We can confirm that Mrs Graham was given a single incorrect tablet, for which we sincerely apologise. Clinical staff fully explained this to Mrs Graham as soon as this was discovered. Medical advice is that

this tablet will not have any long-term harmful effect."

In January last year, Andrea Jones discovered a needle lodged in the back of her baby, Ben. The child, who was born on Christmas Day 1994, was later awarded undisclosed damages at Truro County Court.

Two years ago Mary Field, 52, died from a brain haemorrhage in the hospital car park after doctors sent her home with advice to take paracetamol for a headache. An independent medical report criticised the hospital for failing to carry out necessary tests.

In July last year Gwen Rickard,

63, who was suffering from breast cancer, died after she was allegedly left lying in great pain on a hospital trolley. Earlier this year, Frank Axford, 76, was having an operation on his colon when his bowels caught fire. A mishap with spirit-based fluid was blamed for the incident.

Mrs Graham said she could hardly recognise Treliiske as the place where she trained. "I could never work there now. Staff morale is at an all-time low, staff are overworked and there have been loads of cuts." Her husband, Paul, said public confidence in the hospital was low.

TOM MILLER/POSTER AND PARTNERS

## Wembley beats rivals to £100m lottery prize

By Marcus Binney

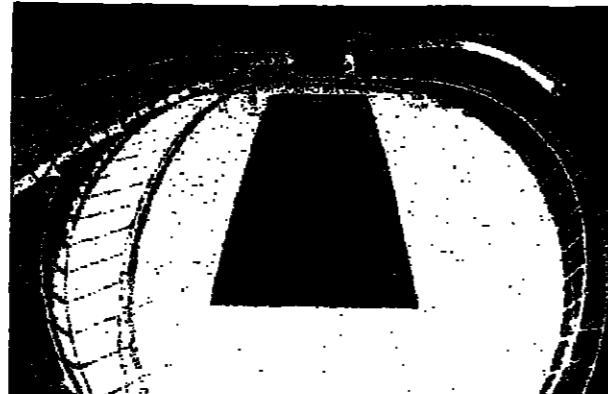
THE Sports Council will announce today that London has won the greatest lottery prize of all, the £180 million project for a new national football and athletics stadium at Wembley.

The winning design by Sir Norman Foster spins the existing pitch through 90 degrees so that the famous twin towers loom behind the northern goalmouth. The change involves moving the towers slightly further down Olympic Way.

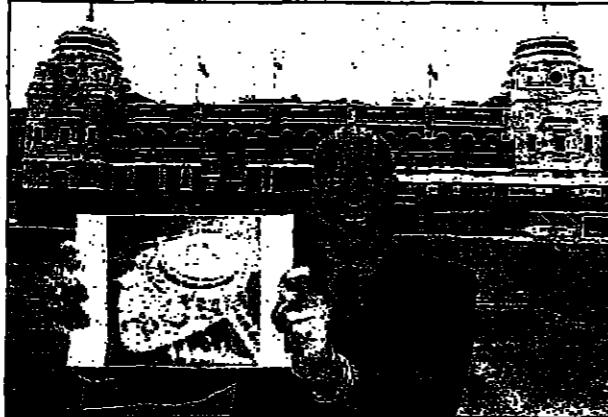
The lottery grant is likely to be more than £100 million. The Sports Council has spent months considering competing bids from Wembley and Manchester, but after the Football Association, the Football League and the FA Premier League came out in favour of Wembley, the choice of London was not seriously in doubt.

The Foster stadium bowl is swept up dramatically along the sides to create an undulating silhouette, with a wide translucent roof complementing the white towers surviving from the 1924 Empire Exhibition. The outer skin of the stadium will be a colourful wall of constantly moving laser images, projected from within, and concealing the ugly underside of the seats, which has turned many stadiums into architectural eyesores.

The design will be refined over the next six months with a view to submitting a detailed application to the Sports Council's lottery board. If the



Norman Foster plans to turn the stadium through 90 degrees, so the twin towers are behind one goal



final go-ahead is given in the summer, work can begin on the site in June 1998, with completion by January 2000.

The main issue still to be decided is whether the rebuilt stadium should have a retractable roof. Initially Manchester, which had such a roof as part of its design, cast

scorn on Wembley's lack of one. In response Sir Norman and at the engineers Ove Arup have designed a roof which allows covers to glide over the pitch along tension cables, attached to a compression ring around the crown of the stadium. The transparent roof

panels would be parked just under the fixed roof, above the seating, and drawn out over the field by a pulley system. The process would take approximately 15 minutes. For athletes, the panels could be opened out further at the end, also allowing maximum sunlight from the south on to the grass pitch.

The expense of the roof will need to be balanced against need. Most Wembley games are in spring and summer and, in recent years, only one or two winter events would have benefited from a roof.

The stadium will seat 80,000 for football and rugby league and 75,000 for athletics. Retractable seats cantilevered out over the running track will bring spectators closer to the football pitch than ever before.

A spokesman for Sir Norman said: "Every seat will have unobstructed views. Two thirds will have arm rests, a feature once restricted to VIP enclosures. Excellent knee-room will allow people to pass seated spectators along every row of seats. Seating will take ten minutes to clear and no one will be further than 15ft from an exit."

Concourses on three levels will have large action-replay screens. Disabled access will be provided to all areas and a fully equipped hospital will be installed.

Another issue between London and Manchester has been transport. While Manchester claimed superior motorway access, Wembley argued that many stadium users had switched to public



How the stadium would look from Olympic Way. The towers will be moved slightly to accommodate the design

transport. London Transport will increase the capacity of Wembley Park Underground station to 50,000 an hour.

Wembley has set up a trust to build the stadium, leaving the existing owners, Wembley Stadium Ltd, as potential managing agents. Though the matching funds needed are

larger than for any other lottery project apart from the Millennium Festival, Wembley is confident that the potential for corporate entertainment and sponsorship will ensure a flow of private investment.

Plans for a Millennium Tower in the City of London, which would be Europe's tallest building and dwarf the Canary Wharf tower, have been attacked by the Royal Fine Art Commission. The 1,265ft tower, intended for the site of the bomb-damaged Baltic Exchange, was described by the commission as "simply out of scale". The

commission's chairman, Lord St John of Fawsley, wrote to Sir Norman Foster, who designed the tower, explaining that the organisation could not back the scheme. A spokesman for Foster and Partners had no comment.

Football, page 36

## Bishop refuses to preach in cathedral at Christmas

By Russell Jenkins



THE Bishop of Lincoln is refusing to set foot inside his cathedral this Christmas in protest at the continuing feud between the dean and sub-dean.

The Right Rev Robert Hardy traditionally joins the carol singers on Christmas Eve and preaches and gives the blessing from the pulpit on Christmas Day. However, he has made it clear through his office that he cannot be seen alongside the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Donald Jackson, and the Sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis.

The feud has its origins in a troubled exhibition of the Magna Carta organised by the cathedral in Australia, which lost £56,000 in 1988. Dr Jackson was appointed in 1989 and has been at loggerheads with Verity Free-stone, a verger. His lawyers recently argued in court that

he should not have to answer a civil action arising from the allegations. In recent months Dr Jackson has ignored calls by canons in the diocese for him to leave.

Bishop Hardy, whose house adjoins the dean's in the shadow of the cathedral, has been anxious to persuade the two men to leave office, but both refuse to go. The Arch-

## Bomb pair jailed for 20 years

By Stewart Tendler

TWO Palestinian science graduates who used their education to build bombs were jailed for 20 years each at the Old Bailey yesterday for plotting to blow up the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity.

Sentencing Samar Alami, 30, and Jawad Botmen, 27, Mr Justice Garland said that the terrorist acts had caused millions of pounds of damage. The bombs were set off in London the day after Israel and Jordan signed a peace declaration.

A middle-aged woman left a car bomb near the embassy and that evening a bomb exploded outside the charity's offices. The Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine said it was responsible.

The court was told that Alami, of South Kensington, and Botmen, of Bloomsbury, wished to hinder the peace process. Yesterday the judge said that their actions "did not advance the Palestinian cause. I have to pass sentences for what you did, not your motives."

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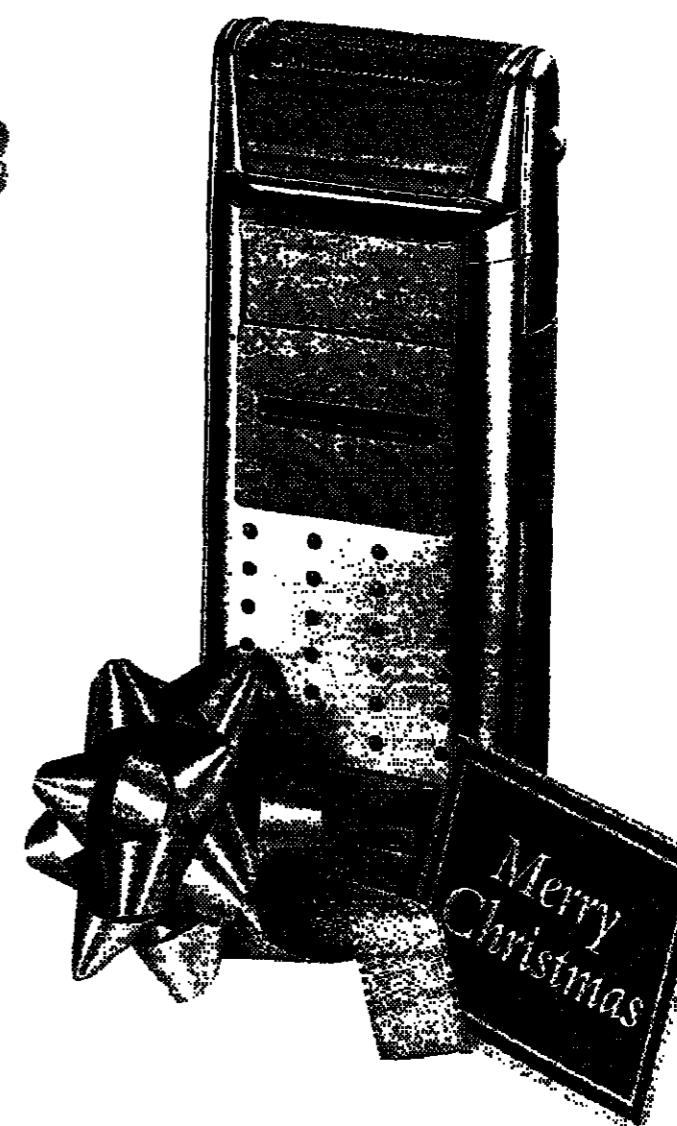
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Stallone and Jennifer Flavin, mother of his baby daughter Sophia, and the Miami home that they will leave

## Rambo flees Miami vice for London

By Damian Whitworth

SYLVESTER STALLONE, the muscled hard man of Hollywood action films, is to flee America for a new life in London. He said he was not prepared to bring up his daughter, now three months old, in crime-ridden Miami.

"My home town, Miami, is beautiful — but it has become extremely dangerous. I want my daughter to be safe and to have the best possible education and she just won't get that in the States. Miami

has one of the worst education records in America. The European system seems to be so far ahead. A private education in Britain would give her the best opportunities in the best surroundings. I'm not going to wait until she's older. I'll move to London soon."

The Rambo star, who joins a cross-Atlantic drift of other American actors, such as Tom Cruise, often visits Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey when he is in Britain. Stallone, 50, is due to give evidence soon in the trial of one of his

former security guards for the attempted murder of another guard in the grounds of his home. "I have the best security money can buy but it's still not enough. I just don't want my family exposed to those kind of dangers. I know there's crime everywhere but I want to go somewhere where the risks are less," he told *The Sun*.

Stallone said he would move when Sophia, his daughter by Jennifer Flavin, 23, has fully recovered from surgery for a hole in the heart.

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## Shot man's family 'stuck for motive'

By EMMA WILKINS

THE son of a businessman who was shot dead outside the family home said yesterday that his father was a "wonderful, caring and hard-working" man.

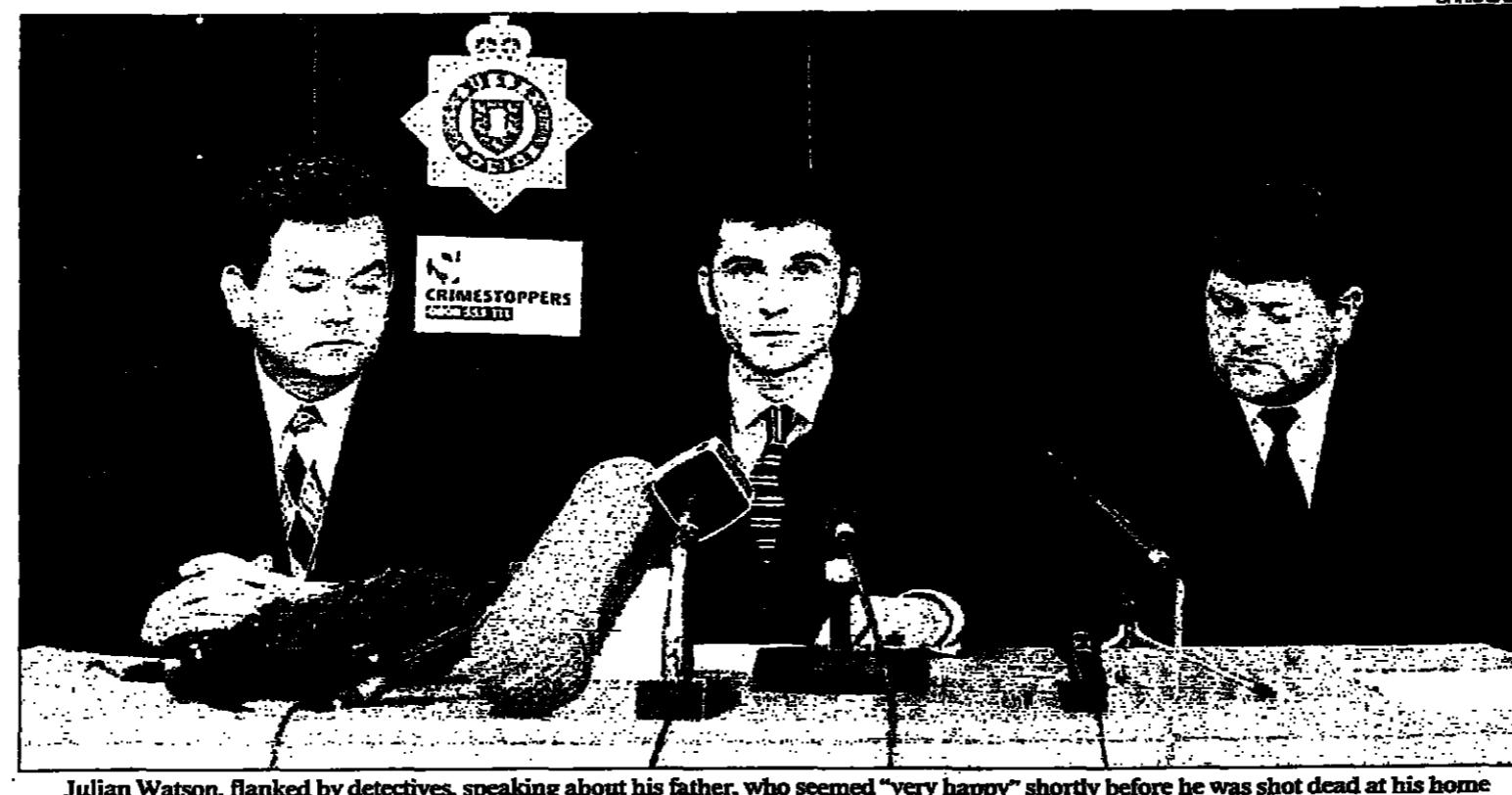
Police believe Richard Watson, 54, a computer consultant with business interests in eastern Europe, may have been the victim of a contract killing. However, his son Julian, 28, who worked for his father's company, said the family could find no possible motive for the murder.

Mr Watson said his father had been in a cheerful mood hours before he was shot in the chest in the driveway of the family's farmhouse in East Grinstead, West Sussex, last week. "He seemed very happy," he said. "The family have no idea

why Dad was murdered. We appeal to anybody who has any information about this murder to contact the police. Somebody, somewhere, must know something."

Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood, who is leading the inquiry, said Mr Watson's business and financial affairs were being investigated. He was a director of one company which went into liquidation, while another was dissolved. Weeks before he was killed, he was attacked with a stun gun by two men wearing balaclavas.

"Although we have no definite information about a motive, it would be foolish to disregard any possibility, including the possibility this was a professional hit," Mr Westwood said.



Julian Watson, flanked by detectives, speaking about his father, who seemed "very happy" shortly before he was shot dead at his home

More than 30 in the judiciary are members of brotherhood, women barristers tell MPs

## Judges 'should resign as Masons or admit status'

By FRANCES GIBB AND BILL FROST

JUDGES are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after evidence to MPs on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary.

More than 30 judges have been identified from those listed as high-ranking or "Grand" officers in the latest Masonic Year Book (1996-97). They include Lord Justice Millett, one of the top Chancery judges in the Court of Appeal, and the High Court judges Mr Justice Chadwick and Mr Justice Talbot.

Retired judges include a law lord, Lord Templeman, and the former Court of Appeal judges, Sir John Balcombe and Sir Edward Eveleigh and the former High Court judge Sir Maurice Drake. His Honour Lawrence Verney, QC, the Recorder of London, and His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, (retired), are also both listed in the yearbook.

Sir Frederick Crawford,



Lord Justice Millett: listed as Freemason

who has been appointed chairman of the new body to review miscarriages of justice — the Criminal Cases Review Authority — is also a senior Freemason.

The Association of Women Barristers, which has compiled the information, is recommending to the Commons Home Affairs Committee that anyone appointed a judge be required to resign membership of the Freemasonry or at least disclose it publicly. The MPs start their inquiry into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary tomorrow, under Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP.

Josephine Hayes, chair of the association, said there were probably far more judges who were Freemasons than those identified, particularly at the lower levels, but only high-ranking officers were named in the 1996-97 handbook. It was difficult to obtain information, she said.

"We think that in principle

that for judges to be Freemasons is damaging and detrimental to public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary and also to the system of judicial appointment and appointment to silk."

There was some anecdotal evidence of public concern, she added. Clients had on occa-

sion expressed worries — albeit unjustified — that a judge hearing their case might be a Freemason when they knew their opponent also to be one.

Second, women barristers had concerns that because the system of appointment to the judiciary depended on "secret soundings", the network afforded by Freemasonry gave members a means through which they could meet senior judges which was not open to women candidates. Such contacts were all the more important now that the practising Bar had grown to more than 8,000 and judges no longer knew candidates personally.

The association cites one anonymous instance where a person had applied, unsuccessfully, to be a Queen's Counsel, and then on becoming a Freemason, was successful. Ms Hayes added: "We think that secret soundings are wrong anyway, but Freemasonry is just one more factor which enables members to meet and mix with senior

judges and members of the Bar in a way denied to non-members, and offer the loyalty pledges they allegedly give each other. Since women are prohibited from becoming full members — at least of all the mainstream lodges — then it is in principle discriminatory."

The association points out that there are a significant number of Masons' lodges for lawyers. The value of lodge membership was all the greater, Ms Hayes added, now that increasing numbers of cases were heard by senior Queen's Counsels sitting part-time alongside High Court judges.

Chief constables have

called on officers and civilian staff openly to register their position in the Freemasonry. The Association of Chief Police Officers has also urged the Home Office to legislate for officers to register their membership of any organisation that demands a bond of loyalty.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that would-be judges were not asked about membership of the Freemasonry. A spokesman said: "The Lord Chancellor believes as a matter of principle that people should

be free to join any lawful organisation, including Freemasonry, if they wish to. They have to swear the judicial oath" [to do] right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will" and having done that, he feels there is no conflict of interest."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, told MPs during a previous inquiry into judicial appointments that he had asked senior officials in his department if they were Freemasons and they had said they were not.

**BROTHERS IN LAW**

Judges, either sitting or retired who are listed in the 1996/97 Masonic Year Book include:

□ (Among the officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England) Judge John Lionel Sessions (grand registrar); and His Honour Judge Michael Bradley Goodman (first assistant grand sojourner).

□ (On the panel of the Freemasons' Commission for Appeals Courts) Sir Edward Eveleigh; the retired Court of Appeal judge; Sir Maurice Drake, the retired High Court judge; Lord Justice Millett, a Court of Appeal judge; Mr Justice Chadwick, the High Court judge and His Honour Sir William Stabb, QC.

□ (On the procedure committee) Sir John Balcombe, retired Court of Appeal judge.

□ Other listed members are: His Honour Anwy Davies, QC; Judge Gerald Coles, QC; Judge Peter Copley; Judge Brian Galpin; His Honour Alan Garfit; Judge Michael Goodman; His Honour John E. Jones; His Honour Alexander Karmel, QC; His Honour King-Hamilton, QC; Judge Reginald Lockett; District Judge Seymour Samuels; Sir Christopher Slade (retired Court of Appeal judge); Judge Peter Slot; Judge David Smith; Sir John Stocker (retired Court of Appeal judge).

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**Child drinkers**

Two hundred children were detained by Cleveland police during an operation to curb under-age drinking in Stockton-on-Tees. A group of 80

were found drinking on a school playing field. The alcohol was poured away and many faced a dressing-down in front of their parents.

**Bettis jury out**

The jury trying a student for his part in supplying the Ecstasy tablet that killed Leah Bettis will resume its deliberations today after failing to reach a verdict last night. Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, has denied at Norwich Crown Court any part in the supply of the drug.

**'Needless' deaths**

Hundreds of travellers die needlessly every year because airline safety procedures are inadequate. More than a third of the 1,500 people who die annually in air accidents should have survived, the European Transport Safety Council said. Deaths rose by 70 per cent this year.

**Taste of success**

Britain is the centre of the gastronomic world, producing better food than France or Italy, according to Jean Conil, World President of the Epicurean World Master Chefs Society. The rise of young independent chefs, such as Marco Pierre White, and high demand were key factors.

**Record spot**

The film *101 Dalmatians* broke seasonal British box office records in its first weekend, distributors said. The live action remake of Disney's animation classic took £2.4 million in three days, the biggest December opening in British cinema history, Buena Vista International said.

**Fiennes foiled**

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who was forced to abandon his attempt to become the first man to walk solo across the Antarctic because of kidney stone problems, will not resume his expedition. Sir Ranulph, 52, said last night that insurers would not allow him to continue his quest.

**Two jailed for attack on 88-year-old widow**

By TIM JONES

TWO men who attacked an 88-year-old widow who survived a Nazi slave labour camp were jailed yesterday. A jury at Derby Crown Court was told that Lakwinder Singh had boasted that he planned to pay for a relative's wedding by targeting a wealthy widow and raping her during a robbery. His victim was Parania Honczaruk, who had been seen by Sohal and his friend, Madam Lal Dass, drawing her pension and £4,000 life savings from her local post office at Peartree, Derby. She had intended to give most of the money to her church to care for less fortunate people.

Sohal, 34, who denied the charges was convicted of indecent assault, robbery and two charges of grievous bodily harm. Dass, 45, who also pleaded not guilty, was convicted of grievous bodily harm and robbery. Sohal was jailed for 18 years and Dass for ten.

During the beating she had suffered, one of Mrs Honczaruk's teeth had snapped off and lodged in her throat and one of her ears was almost ripped off. She had bruising to her face, neck, shoulder, chest, arms, hands, fingers and throat and three of

her ribs were broken. She also suffered massive internal bleeding and ruptures to her spleen and gastric artery and was in hospital for four months.

After the case, Detective Inspector Jack Russell, of Derbyshire Police, said at one stage he feared he would be conducting a murder inquiry. He said: "She nearly died. It was an horrendous attack."

In 1943, Mrs Honczaruk, who speaks little English, was forcibly taken by the Germans from her parents in Minsk to work in a munitions factory. Before then, her parents had offended Stalin and been sent to a prison in Siberia. After the war she was held in a refugee camp in Cambridge before meeting her husband, Gregori, a tutor for Ukrainian immigrants, and living with him in Derby until his death in 1971.

Ivan Fedorysyn, of the Ukrainian Elderly Day Care Centre in Derby, said: "After the attack she told me she had lived through the hell of the Communists and the Nazis and was still alive because God protected her."

## Why some killer whales prefer fish

By NICK NUTTALL

KILLER whales do not always deserve their blood-thirsty reputation, say scientists. Many orcas are happy to keep documentary film-makers happy by launching themselves onto beaches to snatch seals and tear them limb from limb. But others dine exclusively on fish.

The findings, disclosed at a meeting yesterday of the British Ecological Society at Durham University, have come from studies of killer whales off northwest America.

Dr Rus Hoelzel, based at Durham University's department of biological sciences, said yesterday: "Killer whales live in social groups called pods. We have found that some feed on marine mammals. But in these same waters others feed on just fish."

They follow salmon stocks. Genetic studies showed that there were differences between the meat and fish-eating killer whales. "Although they are living in the same place, they are as different as if you compared geographically isolated popula-

tions, like ones in Argentina with those in Iceland."

Dr Hoelzel said feeding habits had probably evolved to ensure there was enough food and to reduce the chances of the same whales all hunting the same food source. "My feeling is that this

top predator is foraging in a difficult environment. Each adult whale needs about 400lb to 500lb of food each day."

While the feeding habits might be under partial genetic control, Dr Hoelzel said parental guidance was probably the key to an orca becoming a meat or a fish eater.

"Training is very important for young killer whales. They stay in family groups for quite a long time. So once they have been taught to eat fish or meat, it is probably more efficient to stick to that," he said.

■ Bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth have up to five times the level of scabs and skin sores than similar dolphins living off North Carolina, the British Ecological Society was told. Researchers and conservationists believe pollution might be to blame.



Attempts are made to move a beached killer whale

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HOME NEWS 5

Identity disc helps experts to identify first of 27 Royal Fusiliers killed in the second battle of Arras

## Exhumed soldiers are to be reburied in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN MONCHY-LE-PREUX

THE remains of 27 British soldiers killed in the First World War and discovered recently in northern France are to be reburied there.

Forensic experts and military historians were yesterday working to put names to the soldiers whose makeshift cemetery was discovered on a former battlefield at the edge of an industrial park outside the northern town of Arras.

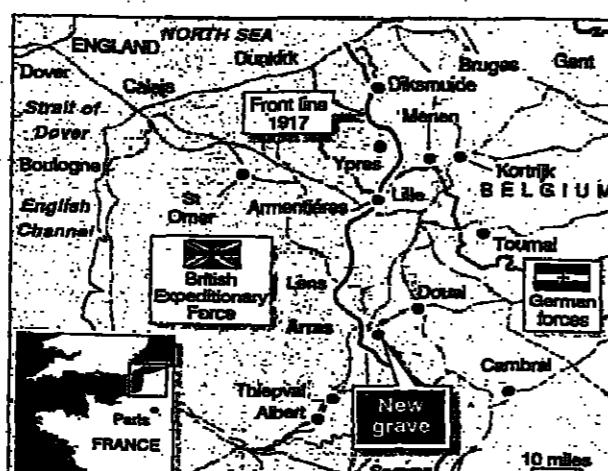
Beverly Webb, a spokeswoman for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, said: "Whether we are successful or not in identifying them, the men will be reburied in a war cemetery in France." She added: "The nearest would be at Arras, but we want to keep the men together and the problem would be whether there are 27 plots there."

Duncan Thomas, exhumations officer at the commission, believes he has identified one of the Royal Fusiliers, killed in the second battle of Arras in April 1917, from a metal identity disc found at the site, near the village of Monchy-le-Preux. At least two other bodies were found with similar aluminium tags, a military innovation introduced in 1917. The remainder were probably still carrying leather identity discs, which would have perished. "After we've tracked down those with legible dog-tags, we may be struggling a bit," Mr Thomas said.

While farmers in northern France periodically unearth the remains of First World War soldiers, most of the large burial sites have been identified. The latest discovery is the largest since the commission uncovered the remains of 51 British soldiers on the Somme battlefield in 1982.

The Monchy site, uncovered by construction workers on Friday, is a sea of mud. It is on a flat strip of land between a new autoroute and the high-speed rail link to Paris. Eurostar trains carrying passengers from London pass a few yards away.

The skeletons — in a remarkably good state of preservation, according to Michael Johnson, director of the war graves commission in France — have been taken to the mortuary at Arras, where researchers are removing the mud from items retrieved at the site in the search for clues.



The objects are the commonplace but moving detritus of war: a broken pipe, a live round, a tanner (spurce), a belt buckle, a turn button and the epaulette tag from the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

As the archaeological evidence and regimental records are pieced together, a clearer picture is emerging of the soldier's possible fate. There are only a tiny handful of the 35,000 unknown dead who perished at Arras alone.

The identified soldier, whose name has not been released, was a private in the fusiliers killed on April 11, 1917, during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. The day after his death, *The Times* talked of "smart" and "stiff" fighting and described the German counter assault as "probably no more than a local attempt to check our advance ... and will not succeed even in that more temporarily at most".

Evidence from the Monchy site paints a very different picture, of carnage and chaos and a cemetery barely deserving the name, thrown together in the heat of battle as British and German troops fought over the village. The 27 men were buried without coffins, merely clothed, wearing their boots and many still carrying ammunition pouches. Some were buried in shell holes, while others were laid below a few inches of earth.

The remains of six soldiers at one end of the site had been previously disturbed, apparently by an exploding shell. However, most of the skeletons are intact, which may indicate that they were casualties wounded in battle who died later in a field hospital near by. Alternatively, Mr. Johnson said, they may have been cut down at the same

time by German machinegun fire.

More than 100 fusiliers died on April 11 and identifying the bodies without discs will depend on what, if anything, can be learnt from the objects retrieved from the site. "Maybe we will find a spoon with initials on it, or a belt with a serial number," Mr Thomas said. But even the metal

time by German machinegun fire.

Tomorrow, the earth movers will return to the site,

which is destined to disappear under the sprawling industrial suburbs of Arras. Nevertheless, it will forever be associated with 27 men who died fighting for their country.



Some of the objects from the burial site. Not all soldiers had been issued with metal identity discs by 1917

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By JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BALDRY, the Fisheries Minister, promised last night that he would try to secure higher quotas for Northern Ireland in what was widely seen as an attempt to win Ulster Unionist support in a vote on European fisheries policy.

The nine Ulster Unionists, who are now pivotal to keeping John Major in office, were threatening to vote against the Government. They oppose the fisheries policy which they say penalises the Province's fishing industry. They have been

particularly incensed by a little known element of the policy called the "Hague Preference", which favours the Republic at the expense of Northern Ireland.

Under the agreement drawn up in 1983, Ireland was given a specific threshold of fishing quotas below which it could not fall. If the annual fishing quotas agreed every December by the European fisheries ministers meant that they fell below the threshold, they were entitled to invoke the agreement to obtain more fish.

However, because trawlers from the Republic fish in the same

waters as the Northern Irish the North is inevitably penalised. Last week Mr Baldry had a series of meetings with Ulster Unionist MPs from fishing constituencies.

At the end of last week Mr Baldry sent Mr Taylor a letter promising to review the Hague Preference in the new year. Mr Taylor signalled over the weekend that this was not enough but yesterday Mr Baldry told MPs that he would demand higher quotas for Northern Ireland at the Fisheries Council on Thursday on Friday, when the levels for next year are decided.

Speaking in the Commons shortly

before the vote Mr Baldry said there would be tough negotiations on fishing stocks, but he was determined to achieve "substantial improvements" on the Commission's proposals. "I shall want to use international quota swaps to increase our quota in the Irish Sea to the direct benefit of the Northern Irish industry," he said. "I shall wish, so far as is possible, to mitigate the immediate disadvantages to the Northern Irish industry."

Mr Baldry also repeated his pledge to reconsider whether the Hague Preference benefited the

United Kingdom, and whether the Government should ask for it to continue. But officials pointed out that any attempt to do so would have to be done with agreement by European ministers.

Even after the concession, the Ulster Unionists kept the Government guessing as to whether they would offer their support. They were wary about inflicting a government defeat that could help to bring forward the general election, and several MPs were unimpressed by Mr Baldry's olive branch, claiming that he had said the same thing a year ago.

Leading article, page 15

## Howard's adviser says gun Bill is monstrous injustice

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Home Secretary's Bill for a ban on most handguns was criticised yesterday for his chief adviser on gun laws.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, chairman of the Firearms Consultative Committee, which gives independent advice to ministers, said that the Firearms (Amendment) Bill would not prevent another Dunblane massacre. He accused politicians on all sides of making a "disastrous knee-jerk reaction" and said that their use of the tragedy for political ends was "sickening".

The Tory peer was speaking as the Bill came up for second reading in the House of Lords. Almost 40 peers lined up to criticise the Bill and gave notice that the Government would come under strong pressure to amend it during the committee stage in the new year.

The Bill would ban all handguns except for 22 calibre weapons kept securely at a gun club, taking about 160,000 guns out of circulation.

Lord Shrewsbury said that his committee felt horror and disgust at what happened in Dunblane. But he said that the Bill would make no difference to the possibility of a similar atrocity taking place in the future. "I find it sickening to witness the political parties on all sides doing their utmost to score political points."

He said particularly dis-

graceful was the behaviour of the Labour Party to call for a ban on all handguns before the Cullen report into the tragedy had been published.

He also said that it was sickening for David Mellor, the Tory MP for Putney, to call all legitimate firearm users "perverts".

Lord Shrewsbury said that the Bill would destroy many innocent people's livelihoods. "I find it a disgrace in a civilised society that people should be so deprived of earning their livelihoods through no fault of their own in a way which amounts to legalised theft. It is a monstrous injustice which I believe to be unworthy of a country which has always believed in fair play."

He said that instead the Government should have implemented the recommendations made in the Cullen report. This, he said, included giving more resources to the police to combat illegally held firearms, putting greater pressure on Britain's European partners to tighten up their own gun laws.

The ferocity of Lord Shrewsbury's attack, in language rarely heard in the Lords, demonstrated the strength of feeling among many peers.

Earlier the Earl of Stratford, a crossbencher, had tabled a motion calling for the Lords to reject the Bill at second read-

ing. By convention, peers rarely throw out a Government Bill at this stage and he later said that he would not push the matter to a vote. He had tabled the motion, he said, to prompt a reaction from the Government.

Lord Stratford said he agreed with a fellow peer who said the Bill was an "emotional reaction tinged with political expediency". He went on: "The politicians have not been able to move beyond their first emotional reaction. They are now trying to smuggle the Bill through Parliament."

He said Lord Cullen had concluded that the key cause of the Dunblane massacre was the failure of the Scottish police and authorities to implement firearms legislation and stop Thomas Hamilton possessing a licence. "We must concentrate on the person and not the gun," he said.

"Using the pistol shooters as scapegoats achieves remarkably little."

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a former Labour minister, broke ranks with his own front bench, and condemned the Bill as ill-considered and premature. "This Bill, far from guaranteeing that there will be no future Dunblane or Hungerford, will simply serve to penalise genuine shooters and instead miss the real problem of enforcement and illegally held handguns."



Labour's new MP for Barnsley East, Jeff Ennis, centre right, and his wife, Margaret, right, being welcomed to Parliament yesterday by John Prescott, the deputy party leader, and fellow Labour MPs. The fisheries vote ensured that Mr Ennis, fresh from his by-election victory on Thursday, wasted no time in taking his seat

## Teachers wary of Blair's scheme

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR came under attack from teachers yesterday for plans to parachute successful heads into struggling schools and give them powers to sack incompetent staff.

In a speech the Labour leader said that in government he would have "zero tolerance" of school underperformance and would speed up

the process of dismissing poor teachers.

Local authorities said that they would welcome extra powers to rid poor schools of senior staff and teachers' organisations gave warning against creating a hire-and-fire culture.

At present councils can appoint a temporary head if inspectors say that a school is failing, but Mr Blair proposed extending the scheme where the school is judged to be at risk of failure.

Croydon Council in south London has just sent George Varnava, a retired former president of the National Association of Head Teachers, to take over the failing Ashburton High School. He said: "One of the best things that is happening to education is that it is in the spotlight, but the only problem with that is, just like football, you have got

to perform well or you are out . . . the head teacher is extremely vulnerable and it is coming down to a hire-and-fire system."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said that "serious logistical problems" would have to be solved before Mr Blair's scheme could work. "A school in danger of failing needs a good, strong head teacher of its own, not a job-share with a neighbouring school which may be many miles away."

Mr Blair said that his Education Secretary would have the status of "the manager's job at Newcastle United". But as Prime Minister he would maintain an interest and take part in strategic decision-making. "We will, for the benefit of both other teachers and, above all, pupils, ensure that poor teachers are removed from teaching more quickly."

He was speaking at Ruskin College, Oxford, 20 years after Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour Prime Minister, gave a speech there in which he attacked Britain's poor academic standards.

Mr Blair said it was too late to wait until a school was declared to be failing. "We need to be able to intervene early with sufficient power to stop the spiral of decline."

He went on: "Good leadership is critical. While it will not be appropriate in all circumstances, encouraging tried and tested leadership teams in successful schools to take on responsibility for underperforming schools could provide a lifeline for schools caught in a vicious circle of low expectation, poor management, declining rolls and low morale."

Yesterday Mr Howard said:

"Jack Straw is renegeing on

Tony Blair's promise to co-

operate with us to take the

Bill through the House without delay". What is more, his proposals would significantly reduce the public's protection from harassment.

Mr Straw has tabled 11

amendments, the most sub-

stantial of which lists defin-

itions of harassment,

such as

loitering,

telephoning and

interfering with prop-

erty. The Government believes that this approach would make it more difficult to secure convictions.

The Bill, as it now stands,

would make it an offence for

anyone to put another person

in fear of violence on more

than one occasion, or to act in

a way that they ought to know

amounts to harassment. It

would also allow victims to seek civil redress. Offenders would face sentences of up to five years and/or heavy fines.

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## Ridings school put on probation

By JOHN O'LEARY

GILLIAN SHEPHERD put the Ridings School on probation yesterday, leaving it in the hands of its local authority but maintaining the threat of a "hit squad" if standards do not rise.

The Halifax comprehensive achieved notoriety in October when it was closed temporarily after a series of violent incidents, an emergency inspection and the threat of a teachers' strike. Mrs Shepherd, the Education Secretary, ordered fortnightly reports on the school when it was declared to be failing.

Mrs Shepherd responded to the action plans submitted by the school's governors and Calderdale education authority by acknowledging the improvement that had taken place in less than two months. But she said the inspections showed "much more progress" was needed. Although she chose not to transfer the Ridings to an education association, she said she would not hesitate to do so. She ordered three more reports before Easter.

Ian Jennings, Calderdale's Director of Education, said Mrs Shepherd's comments were a statement of the obvious, adding: "Clearly there is still a great deal to be done." Mrs Shepherd said that the authority was to blame for having been content to watch the Ridings decline. "As a consequence, the school now has an enormous mountain to climb and I am unwilling to leave it to the mercy of the authority until I am satisfied that it is safe to do so."

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# Kennedy snaps under pressure from paparazzi

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BRAWL in a New York street suggests that John Kennedy Jr, son of the late United States President, has reached breaking point with the paparazzi who follow him every move.

Mr Kennedy and his new bride, Carolyn, have been hounded by freelance photographers since they returned from their autumn honeymoon. On Sunday the couple were out walking their dog in central Manhattan when they heard, yet again, the sound of camera motor drives. For once Mr Kennedy, 36, decided not to turn the other cheek. He marched over to one of the photographers' cars, reached through the open window and tried to seize the ignition key.

The incident illustrated the intolerable degree to which the Kennedys are being pursued by celebrity press photographers — every bit as intrusive as the paparazzi who dog the Royal Family. It came after

they learnt that some of their wedding photographs were stolen during a post-marriage party thrown for them at the home of Mr Kennedy's sister, Caroline.

The wedding was conducted amid high secrecy to frustrate the press. It is thought that a guest at the party stole the personal snapshots with the intention of selling them.

Public figures in America are becoming increasingly militant about the "snappers".

The problem has been exacerbated by the growing market for video footage of well-known people. The rewards for photographers can be lucrative and the people do not always need to be famous in their own right; the sons and daughters of public figures are considered fair game.

The celebrities' responses range from aggression — Robert De Niro has been known to accost photographers and push them in the chest — to

commercial pressure. The actor George Clooney, supported by many Hollywood stars, has refused to co-operate with a leading "soft" showbusiness nightly television programme unless it forced a harder-hosed sister programme to call off its "stalkerazzi" photographers. The ploy has been largely successful.

During Sunday's incident, Mrs Kennedy broke down in tears while her husband, clearly enraged, led her to their flat. Before they went inside they flagged down a passing police car which chased the photographers away.

"John went ballistic," Marcel Thomas, a paparazzo, said. During the tussle for the car keys, he also pleaded with the photographers for privacy. Once he and Mrs Kennedy were safely inside the lobby of their building, he placed an arm round her shoulders to console her.



John Kennedy Jr and wife Carolyn outside their flat in October after honeymooning



Only four Checker taxis are still operating

## New York's Checker cabs at end of road

New York: One of the most potent symbols of postwar New York, the yellow Checker cab, is on the verge of extinction (Quentin Letts writes).

There are only four Checkers left on the streets of Manhattan, four lumbering, genial giants of a New York taxi fleet which once numbered 5,000. The last examples are likely to be retired early next month after new requirements by the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission that cabs should not be more than five years old.

The 1950s-style Checker, with a long wheelbase and sitting high on the road, was New York's answer to the London black cab. It was roomy, big enough to bludgeon its way through traffic, and tough enough to withstand the potholes of the Manhattan public carriage-way. Unlike the London cab, however, it failed to adapt. It went out of production in 1982 and has gradually been replaced by smaller, less comfortable Ford Crown Victorias and Chevrolet Caprices.

One of the last Checker drivers, Earl Johnson, is not optimistic about the old warhorses being given exemption from the commission's new rules. "But if they take the Checker, I'm gone too," said Mr Johnson, 59.

A decision on the future of the cab is expected in March.

## Two-seater fatties made butt of fines on subway

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

SUBWAY passengers are being fined under a 1940 law which forbids people from taking up more than one seat.

Allegations of "fat-ism" and pettiness have been aimed at city officials for imposing the law, which on the face of it appears unkind to broader-beamed passengers. But New York's Police Department yesterday defended itself, saying that the law was being used simply to stop thugs and tramps from taking up too much room in the carriages.

The \$50 (£31) fines are being issued at a rate of about 400 a week, generating useful revenue for the city and no shortage of grumblies. "When you give out the number of summonses we give out in this city, you are always going to have someone who is unhappy," said Howard Safir, New York City's Police Commissioner.

Zachary Schlee, 19, a student, claimed that a policeman apologised when he was fined on the one-seat-only law. "The officer gave me a sob story about how he knew the ticket was petty and horrible, but that they were under pressure from the Mayor," said Mr Schlee, who claimed he was in a near-empty carriage reading a book and sitting lengthwise on a two-seat bench when he was fined.

The subway's moulded seats are of only average width and large folk regularly spill over onto a second seat.

Officer Kevin Tyrrell, on behalf of New York police, yesterday denied that the law was unfair to fat people. "The law is there as a tool and it is being used simply to stop people sleeping on trains."

A straw poll of riders on one subway train showed support for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's seat campaign. "About time," said one elderly woman who said she had "had enough of having to stand".

## Critics rain prizes on slice of London life

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A LOW-BUDGET film about love, prejudice and other realities of south London life has won three major prizes from a group of Los Angeles film critics.

*Secrets and Lies*, a proudly British drama directed by Mike Leigh, won the Los Angeles Film Critics' Association's awards for best film, best actress (Brenda Blethyn) and best director.

As the awards season gets

under way in an exceptionally strong year for films from both sides of the Atlantic, *Secrets and Lies* prevailed over Woody Allen's new musical, *Everybody Says I Love You*, and such big-budget rivals as *The English Patient* and *The People vs Larry Flynt* (about the publisher of *Penthouse*).

In the film, which won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival, Ms Blethyn plays a chain-smoking, working-class mother adrift in a midlife crisis of

part-time jobs and flaming rows with her one daughter. The plot thickens when she turns out to have another, who is out to find her, having been adopted at birth.

Developed over many months without a script or a single special effect, *Secrets and Lies* is Mr Leigh's fourth film to win critical acclaim in America (his others include *Life Is Sweet* and *Naked*), but the first to put him in contention for Oscar night.

Last week the New York

Film Critics' Circle voted

*Shine*, an Australian release

about a gifted but troubled pianist, the year's best film. Both critics' groups are known for favouring experimental films over mainstream ones, but at least their prestige is not in doubt.

Recent revelations of alleged corruption have tarnished the image of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which runs the Golden Globes.

## Meteorite ignites village's coffee crop in Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A METEORITE has crashed in a remote area of Honduras, leaving a 10ft crater and setting fire to several acres of coffee crops.

News of the incident, which has sparked great scientific interest, took more than two weeks to filter out because of the remote location of the crater.

Witnesses said a large fireball plummeted to earth during the night of November 22 in a remote area of coffee fields about 125 miles west of Tegucigalpa, capital of the small Central American country.

"We saw a large ball of fire, with a long tail that rapidly descended from the sky and fell... before our incredulous eyes," said Elmer Rivera, a schoolteacher near the village of San Luis.

"There were enormous flames and everything was destroyed," said Francisco Aguilar, a farmer.

Honduran authorities have advised those living in the area to stay away from the crater until scientists can examine it for possibly harmful

substances. Scientists say that falling meteorites are not uncommon. "It does demonstrate that there is a level of risk, which is correlated to the size of the object," said Dr Jacqueline Mitton, a scientist at the Royal Astronomical Society.

Experts say the Honduran meteorite may have been only a foot wide. But travelling at an estimated speed of almost 25,000 miles an hour (6.8 miles a second) the impact of the rocky missile created a huge crater.

The chances of a large meteorite hitting Earth are small, say scientists. Last month a three-mile-long asteroid, Toutatis, passed within 3.3 million miles of Earth. If an object of that size did hit,

experts say it would be the equivalent of a massive nuclear explosion that could wipe out the human race. The impact might cause a curtain of dust to blot out the sun, producing the equivalent of a "nuclear winter" not unlike the theory which some say explains the extinction of the dinosaurs.

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# Kuwait wins \$610m for Gulf War oil inferno

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A UNITED NATIONS commission is recommending that Kuwait should receive \$610 million (£370 million) in damages for the inferno started by Iraq in the Kuwaiti oilfields at the end of the Gulf War.

The award would compensate Kuwait for one of the worst Iraqi atrocities during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

As allied troops marched on Kuwait in February 1991, retreating Iraqi soldiers set ablaze about 700 oil wells. The conflagration burnt for weeks, sending columns of acrid smoke high into the atmosphere, before the flaming wells were capped.

Abdul Rahman al-Houty, the former chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority, described the fires as "the most notorious and injurious of all the many direct losses suffered as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait".

The Kuwait Oil Company had asked the Geneva-based UN Compensation Commission for \$950 million in damages in the first corporate claim assessed by the agency.

Diplomats said yesterday that a three-judge panel, appointed by the commission, had recommended \$610 million in compensation to meet the cost of extinguishing the fires. The panel rejected \$3

million claimed for firefighting payments to Kuwaiti oil workers and deferred the remaining \$337 million to another claim dealing with the loss of physical infrastructure.

The Compensation Commission's governing council, composed of the Security Council's 15 member states, met yesterday to discuss the recommendation but was unable to reach a decision.

Diplomats said a number of commission members had raised technical problems, but that formal approval could come as early as today.

"I don't think there is anyone there with a political agenda to disrupt this, but equally there are a lot of people who have spoken up to raise rather smarmy points," one official said. "People are aware that this is \$600 million of Iraq's money going to a single claimant and they want to be sure we are taking the right decision."

Iraq has objected to the Kuwaiti claim, insisting that the oil wells were set alight by allied bombing during the United States-led Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait. Baghdad also complains that the UN trade embargo deprived it of funds for a legal challenge.

Since it was created in 1991, the commission has received \$200 billion in claims from



Oil workers cap a Kuwaiti oil well after putting out the blaze. Iraqi troops set about 700 wells on fire as they retreated from the emirate

individuals, companies and governments who suffered losses in the Gulf War. Until recently, its ability to pay compensation depended on limited government donations and seized Iraqi assets. So far, it has been able to pay out only \$13.4 million to 4,000 priority claimants who lost a close relative or were seriously injured in the conflict.

The commission will soon be able to pay out bigger sums as a result of the long-delayed implementation of the "oil for food" deal between the UN and Iraq, which sets aside 30

per cent of Iraq's oil revenues to compensate claimants.

The "oil for food" scheme allows Iraq to sell up to \$1 billion of crude oil every three months to buy food for its people, so the compensation fund will soon start getting about \$10 million a month.

About 240 British citizens have got a total of \$402,500 in compensation for personal injury or the loss of relatives in the war. Another 1,000 who were forced to flee Kuwait have been awarded a total of \$3.7 million in damages, but have not yet been paid.

said a Gulf trader as Iraqi oil exports flowed back onto the international markets under a strictly monitored United Nations "oil for food" plan.

Iraq's petroleum exports had been restricted to limited sales to Jordan, but there was large-scale smuggling by road tankers through Turkey and by ships through Gulf waters. Muhammad Rasheed, Iraq's Oil Minister, said on Sunday that Baghdad had

signed oil contracts with 11 foreign firms, including some in America which led the force that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Gulf War.

□ Treatment for son: Iraqi authorities have ordered a Medevac plane to take President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, to Switzerland for treatment for gun injuries he suffered in an ambush last week, according to the Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*.

FROM REUTER  
IN DUBAI

IRAQ, ostracised by world oil markets since its invasion of Kuwait six years ago, has found little difficulty in enticing foreign oil companies to rekindle former ties. Gulf-based Western traders said yesterday.

"It has been a long wait. Now it's finally over... Iraq is back as a marketing force."

signed oil contracts with 11

foreign firms, including some

in America which led the force

that ejected Iraqi forces from

Kuwait in the Gulf War.

□ Treatment for son: Iraqi

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ment for gun injuries he suf-

fered in an ambush last

week, according to the Arabic

newspaper *al-Hayat*.

Debbie Williams, a

spokeswoman, claimed

the registry would "save

people a lot of headaches".

To register, a child must

fill out a form, ticking

required presents after a tour of the aisles — just as

betrothed couples do at

Peter Jones.

On registration, the

child receives a wad of gift

registry cards which can

be sent to relatives and

friends. They are advised

that they can go to their

local Toys 'R' Us and buy

the toy, which will be

delivered to the recipient's

home address.

Lori Mammam, a parent-

tal guidance consultant,

attacked the idea as an

unwanted commercialisa-

tion of the traditional

letters children write to

Father Christmas. "This

encourages materialism,

depersonalises families

and discourages the whole

idea of giving," said Ms

Mammam, editor of *Think*,

an educational journal.

"We already make chil-

dren expect too much, and

people spend too much on

kids' presents. Now chil-

dren will just think 'put in

your order and you will get

what you want,' she said.

At the weekend there

was further evidence that

Christmas shopping is no

place for fainthearts when a

New Brunswick store worker had to be taken to

hospital after being

crushed by over-eager

consumers.

Yassir Arafat, the PLO lead-

er, expressed his sorrow for

the killing of a Jewish settler

woman and her son by Pa-

lestine terrorists last week.

"Please accept my sincere

condolences over the death of

the mother and her son," he

said. He said he had called on

George Habash, leader of the

Popular Front for the Libera-

tion of Palestine, to "stop the

terror". Mr Habash's Damas-

us-based group last week

admitted responsibility for the

attack.

In reply, Mr Netanyahu

expressed his sorrow over the

killing last week "by mistake"

of a Palestinian worker by an

Israeli. It was the leaders' first

conversation since September.

Toy store sets up wish list for small shoppers

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN toy store company has introduced wedding list-style registries for children. The scheme encourages children to name as many as 25 toys they would like, regardless of cost.

Their youthful desires are placed on a nationwide computer which fretful uncles and aunts, if uncertain about what to give "Junior" for Christmas, may consult. Toys 'R' Us has introduced its children's gift registry to an initial test sample of 140 stores in the United States. The response has been enthusiastic, and the registries are likely to spread.

At one Manhattan outlet, a Toys 'R' Us sales assistant, engrossed in piping six-year-olds, said the response had been amazing, before she disappeared from sight amid a mêlée of small hands. The company introduced the idea after the success of a similar scheme for parents of infants.

Debbie Williams, a spokeswoman, claimed the registry would "save people a lot of headaches". To register, a child must fill out a form, ticking required presents after a tour of the aisles — just as betrothed couples do at Peter Jones.

On registration, the child receives a wad of gift registry cards which can be sent to relatives and friends. They are advised that they can go to their local Toys 'R' Us and buy the toy, which will be delivered to the recipient's home address.

Lori Mammam, a parental guidance consultant, attacked the idea as an unwanted commercialisation of the traditional letters children write to Father Christmas. "This encourages materialism, depersonalises families and discourages the whole idea of giving," said Ms Mammam, editor of *Think*, an educational journal.

"We already make children expect too much, and people spend too much on kids' presents. Now children will just think 'put in your order and you will get what you want,'" she said.

At the weekend there was further evidence that Christmas shopping is no place for fainthearts when a New Brunswick store worker had to be taken to hospital after being crushed by over-eager consumers.

Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, expressed his sorrow for the killing of a Jewish settler woman and her son by Palestinian terrorists last week. "Please accept my sincere condolences over the death of the mother and her son," he said. He said he had called on George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to "stop the terror". Mr Habash's Damascus-based group last week admitted responsibility for the attack.

In reply, Mr Netanyahu expressed his sorrow over the killing last week "by mistake" of a Palestinian worker by an Israeli. It was the leaders' first conversation since September.

German cars are often shifted quickly to Belgium, resprayed and renumbered, and then taken south to Spain and North Africa. Many a BMW parked overnight in a multi-storey car park has ended up in Morocco. But the main demand is in the East: the new rich of the post-communist states are hungry for fast cars. Legal purchase and import from the West is very costly.

Professor Ulrich Sieber of Würzburg University has drafted a report on behalf of the German police recommending a European car registration system. He urges an end to the registering of cars by post — all vehicles should be physically presented to an authorised examiner. And when a car is wrecked, its papers should be sent immediately to the insurer who should cross-register the documents with the police. The reason is that gangs are buying up wrecks, cars, ostensibly for scrap, and then using the identity documents to cover a new stolen car of the same make.

The Poles are beginning to

co-operate quite actively with the German authorities. But because one in three of the car thefts in Germany is connected with some kind of insurance fraud, bilateral co-operation has been slowed.

Typically, three German friends might visit a Polish town, eat a long slap-up meal in a restaurant and then report their car stolen.

The Polish police can sometimes trace such cars quickly but are reluctant to return the vehicles until insurance fraud has been ruled out. That often means waiting for the thieves to be caught and sentenced — a process that can last for many months.

Herr Kohl's demands for a

"common area of justice" in Europe may ring alarm bells for British Eurosceptics, but they are welcome in Central Europe, where car theft is as annoying as it is in Germany.

The political will is certainly there in Warsaw — three successive interior ministers

have had their cars stolen and so has the Prime Minister.

## Border car theft drives Germans wild

**H**ainer was still dis-  
taught as he left Berlin police head-  
quarters. On Saturday, a few hours after the European Union made a ringing commitment to fighting organised crime, he had lost his pride and joy, a cream Audi.

"It's probably already on its way to Kiev or somewhere," he grumbled. Discovering the theft, reporting it and flicking through an album of suspects had taken 24 hours. From Berlin it is 30 miles to the Polish border.

The trail does not go completely cold when the car crosses Germany's eastern frontier, but the bureaucratic paperchase certainly slows things down. Reiner, a software salesman in his thirties, is right in assuming that his pale beauty is now blue or black, with different plates and different identity papers.

By today or tomorrow, the car might be ferrying a Romanian businessman to his favourite Bucharest disco.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, wants an "operational police force" in Europe

Vehicle crime is so serious it poses a political threat to Helmut Kohl and lends urgency to his plan for a European police unit, Roger Boyes reports from Berlin

to crack down on organised crime — and East-West car theft is high on the agenda. Many citizens are beginning to lose faith in a Europe which, by dint of open borders and a single market, has made the Continent a lucrative hunting ground for car thieves. The car theft figures — 130,000 a year in Germany, 267,000 in France — are making an impact on public acceptance of another of Herr Kohl's European goals — to enlarge the EU eastwards by 2000.

The Chancellor knows votes are at stake. In his briefing to German journalists at Dublin, he said: "The whole subject of mafia activity, drugs and crime will decide the general election in 1998." Europe had to be made flexible enough, he said. to



## Trading trash



Giles Coren  
on the two-way transatlantic traffic in celebrities

The proposed displacement of Sylvester Stallone from Miami to London looks set to cause a crisis on the international celebrity market, with a big rush on London occasioned by the weakness of the celebrity pound in relation to the celebrity dollar. The market may soon go into free-fall. For a long time there was a sort of equilibrium between Britain and America, and despite a deregulated market there was a reasonable balance of trade.

They took David Hockney. We swiped Stanley Kubrick. Tracey Ullman defected with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour. Ruby Wax crossed the sea to make good the deficit, with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour.

In journalism we took a gamble, going very long on glamourpusses such as Anna Wintour, Tina Brown and Zoë Heller, not to mention former *Modern Review* editor Toby Young. Expecting to recoup our investment we got, instead, Janet Daley and a brief visit from Bill Bryson.

If they are sending us Stallone then we want to offload some of our rubbish in



Arriving? Stallone



Leaving? The Duchess

It was once so different, with bona fide exchanges of genuinely valuable human commodities.

They gave us T.S. Eliot we gave them W.H. Auden. They gave us Henry James, we tried to give them Charles Dickens but he returned, it is said, disillusioned. Even quite recently Kingsley Amis defected to teach at Princeton, taking with him the young Martin, who returned but never quite got over it.

So what will Sly do now, cut off from Hollywood? Will it be the RSC? Merchant Ivory? Insiders at the BBC know better. He is, in fact, pencilled in as the long-lost Mitchell brother from *EastEnders*.

Shaven-headed and ready to ass-kick, the short, ugly Sly is crossing the pond for no other reason than to stake his claim as top geezer on the manor, sing a few rounds of "Knees up Muvva Braan" and leave his mum.

The thing to bear in mind is that American celebrities think London is the best city in the whole wide world and they just love the audiences here, and want to stay forever. They always say so on chat shows, so it must be true. All the same, Michael Jackson said exactly that on a

recent tour of Budapest — and if Jacko is planning to buy a house in Hungary, then Billy Jean is not his lover.

Look at *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Every single performer is North American: Mike McShane, Greg Proops, Ryan Stiles. This is a good deal. They are funny. Let us only despatch Jim Davidson, Angus Deayton and the whole cast of *2Point Children* and we will be able to lay down the groundwork for party.

There is still work to be done, however. How on earth did we manage to get numbered with Rachel Williams (soulless piercer from *The Girls Show*), Katie Puckrik and Caprice Bourret? Does a total failure to charm, move, or sexually arouse Americans mean that we British will necessarily lap them up?

We did manage to offload Amanda de Cadenet, it must be said. But it was a Pyrrhic victory.

As far as really big names go, our days of export are past. Where once we sent out the Collinsons, Jackie and Joan, to fly our elegant flag, today it is one-way traffic. Tom Cruise has fallen in love with our little island since making *Mission: Impossible* here, and regularly rents Lord Hindlip's Holland Park townhouse for £10,000 a week. Even his children are going native, attending school in Britain while Pa films *Eyes Wide Shut*, a movie by, coincidentally, Stanley Kubrick. Richard Gere is said to be on the brink, and Elle Macpherson, once Australian but American now by residence, said on *Cline Anderson All Talk on Sunday* that she was considering a move to London. The Body makes The Move.

We receive all this talentless celebrity, only to export true home-grown talent hoping, by the move, to become celebrated: think of Gary Oldman, Tim Roth, Emily Lloyd and now, apparently, Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker.

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John Peel tells Noreen Taylor about the other great passion of his life

**'A world without Sheila was impossible. I've never known fear like it in my life'**

**L**egendary disc jockey A Radio One institution! A Sixties survivor who still counts A Pillar of Post-punk Society!

At 57, John Peel is naturally rather resistant to the hackneyed tags that tend to accompany his name.

"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit or carried a guitar," goes the flat, lugubrious, Liverpudlian drone. "I look like a mini-cab driver. My children find having a C-list celebrity as a father mildly embarrassing. I think I'm fairly anonymous-looking though."

I thought so, too, until he started to leave the Soho restaurant, when heads turned and subdued murmurings of "Hi John" greeted him as he passed tables.

Self-effacement, a hippie Sixties thing, is very big with Peel. "I really am someone who got lucky," he keeps insisting. "A guy who drifted

into a position that I used to think would be the job of my dreams. Still is, in fact ... playing records, being a conduit for other people's talent. That's how I see myself."

Yet he is not what you see or hear. He has become the man he wants to be.

John Robert Parker Ravenscroft, middle class, public school educated son of a Cheshire cotton broker, fled his class, its customs and prejudices, for one he felt more at home in. Cool, lefty, laid-back proletarian.

With everybody busy down-classing in the Sixties, Peel followed the trend, adopting a Liverpool accent which fitted in perfectly with his DJ role.

"My emotional growth has been reversed if you like," he says, trying to explain his background. "As a child I never cried. Not even when getting a six-inch wound stitched, not even as a seven-year-old on the train to boarding school when the carriage was filled with blubbing boys. In my parents' set I was famous as the boy who never cried. Now I do it all the time ... well not exactly, but I had my first big bawl 20 years ago when our William was born."

"Sheila and I didn't think

we'd want children. We saw ourselves as a unit, content

with each other. Then Sheila

started reading *Just William*

stories to me in bed, and after a while we began to feel ... oh wouldn't it be nice to have our own little William."

"Mm," he mutters, glancing worriedly at my pad, "I can't imagine what that's going to look like in print."

For more than 30 years, Peel has been the seminal voice of serious rock, too. Never Boyzone. Never nursery bands. We're taking avant-garde, underground rock,

garage, rock bands, Ella, Mozart?

"Yeah, I know what you mean," concedes Peel reluctantly. "Trouble is, I've never reached puberty. Anyway, Benjamin Britten can be just as difficult to come to terms with as the music I play," he adds, an edgy defence creeping into his voice.

**D**oes his wife enjoy the sound of endless tapes being played? Tapes flooding in from every aspirant Dylan on the planet.

"Only to the extent where she'll appear in my room dancing, or if the weather's nice, I'll see her leaping around the lawn outside."

He's a great talker, a natural story-teller. Funny, frank, wise, modest ... someone whose company enriches and informs, who comes armed with a cache of anecdotes collected from years presenting pop programmes.

Currently, there are two weekend Radio One shows, a British Forces Broadcasting Service one whose prehistoric origins are long lost, as well as a BBC World Service slot.

So how come you rarely do television, John? "Cos I look funny. And I don't think I'm very good."

Channel Four's *Travels With My Camera*, scheduled to be shown on Sunday, proves otherwise. Peel takes



"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit. I look like a mini-cab driver"

his battered old left-hand drive Mercedes off to Berlin where he meets up with Schneider, a punk from the former East Germany. Before the fall of the Wall, Schneider used to stay up half the night listening as his hero broadcast to the British forces.

Peel describes his heroes as people who have managed to create something that's perfect. Such as?

"Well, I'd loved to have written something as beautiful as *Teenage Kicks* by The Undertones, the ultimate, most perfect record ever made. Then there's the perfect painting, one of Paul Klee's. The perfect band has to be The Fall, from Manchester. My favourite for 20 years."

Aside from obscure rock bands and Liverpool Club

John Peel's great passion in life is his wife, Sheila. The woman known to his listeners as "The Pig". As titles go, it is not perhaps the most elegant of nomenclatures. She snorts when she laughs, which is rather a lot.

Later, when the conversation moves round to Sheila again, he spoke of her movingly, and in a way men rarely do when speaking of their wives, or of their marriage. The emotional bruising he suffered last June when his wife collapsed with a brain haemorrhage, remains palpable.

"Flossie, who's 14, youngest of our four children, rang me to say Sheila had been admitted to Addenbrooke Hospital in Cambridge. I was stuck on the Isle of Man, couldn't get back. I remember this hideous blackness descending, the

God-awful trying to struggle through it, trying not to think ... you know ... what if? The world without Sheila! Just trying to move past that, through that pain. Impossible. Never known fear-like it in my life. Children and I, we sat round a table waiting during the 5½-hour operation. They were wonderful. I was so proud of them — forgot all the arguments over the pizza boxes left in their bedrooms.

Sheila is recovering now, not yet the blur round the

house she usually is, handling all practicalities, dealing with the Aga man. Unlike me, the airy aesthete. I'm always uneasy when I'm away from her now. Hate being away from her anyway, if I'm honest. Until I was 50, I used to spend 20 hours a week on the motorway, between London and

Suffolk where we live. I've cut that down to Saturday and Sunday. Yeah, I come home Saturday nights. Have to.

Otherwise I get homesick. I'm constantly checking on her, even during the night when I go to the loo, I have to switch on the light, just to be sure. I know I'll be doing that for the rest of my days.

"Sounds as though I'm describing the family from Disney land with everyone at the front door, jumping up and down shouting 'Hello Daddy,' which it certainly isn't."

"It's just that my family life contains the easy warmth I

never knew as a child, I find myself enjoying my children their childhood. Not that I'm

blaming my parents, they were helpless having come

from the same world."

"Meeting Sheila, who comes

from Bradford, from an Irish Catholic family, a background so radically different from my own, helped to break the cycle. Becoming part of Sheila's family was almost as wonderful as meeting the woman herself."

They met, he recalls with perfect clarity, in the mid-Sixties in a television studio.

**S**heila, a graduate trainee teacher, was in the audience with

a group of friends. She was wearing dark green, looked sensational and I sent her a note with my telephone number. She thought I was a twerp but her friends forced her to ring me. I remember the scuffling sound of them all in the telephone box. The note? It probably said something about love and peace. I tended to go on a lot about that in those days, and girls I went out with ... pretend models and actresses, would sigh "Ooh, John, that's really beautiful". And then Sheila came along and told me not to be such a daft bugger. Pretty soon it was just the two of us, travelling round the country in the back of a Dormobile looking for our dream home.

"I'm very happy, fully contented. For me, depression comes when I hear of people being treated harshly, when I realise how badly off other people are compared to me."

"Like Elvis I used to believe that if he'd come and lived with us for a couple of weeks, we'd have got him sorted out. Charles and Diana, too. Trou-

ble with people like them is that they're not rooted in any kind of recognisable reality. What they need is someone like me telling them 'Right, now we're off to Sainsbury's then we're going to pick up the kids from school. Then we've got to feed the animals.' I

really mean that."

# TOMORROW

FOOTBALL ARTS

INTERFACE COMPETITION

CHANGING TIMES

# 'The British have a traditional reluctance to become busybodies'

Two months after she launched her manifesto in *The Times*, Frances Lawrence reflects on the enormous response and answers her critics

**I**ninstinct, not a desire for sympathy, provoked me to share my thoughts in these pages some weeks ago. Refusing to label myself a victim, I should not wish to be indulged as one. I recognise, however, that my claim on public attention is, ironically, the consequence of tragic loss.

As such my position has been bracketed with the parents of Dunblane. Any influence we may have had on public debate has been attacked by some as a surrender to sentiment. I can understand that point of view and appreciate how unattractive it would be if politicians were moved to pass laws simply to make memorials.

However, the Dunblane parents and I would, not in our different ways, have had any influence if we had not found ourselves articulating the settled and serious views of the majority of our fellow citizens. The corporate soul of the nation is crying out for change. The action taken by Parliament on handguns and combat knives is a recognition of pressing public demand. The law is not being altered as a pious acknowledgement of any loss, no matter how great, but as a recognition that the overwhelming majority of the public wish to make less likely in future.

I am not a natural crusader but I am writing again now, primarily because I feel I owe it to those who have spoken out and picked up pens in my support. Dealing with the response to my previous article and talking to interested people has absorbed most of my time over the past two months. Organisations, from international charities to community groups, have written in support and made a series of practical suggestions. Of equal value are the hundreds of letters written to me by individuals expressing their solidarity.

None who had read the letters I have received could fail to accept the need for urgent remedial action to restore civility to our country. Many are dispatches from those who have been bruised by what they see as the breakdown of our society. So many have recorded, in grief and bewilderment, the countless, casual acts of brutishness that demean us all. I am haunted by the pain apparent in letters from teenagers whose lives have been stilted or damaged.

At the same time I am thrilled to read those letters from children as young as 11, who are taking steps to improve perceived ills. I have been impressed by the willingness of the influential to recognise the need for change. At meetings with civil servants and business people there has been a genuine desire to respond.

There has been criticism, of course.

Cynicism has greeted the response of some politicians. Commentators have argued that it is the looming election rather than any intimation of morality that has prompted action. My perception is that many of the ministers and MPs to whom I have spoken have been genuinely moved by the pain expressed in the letters I have received. It is clear that the motives of the actors could not be verified as of the best. The Home Secretary plans to establish an award to encourage good citizenship. It will complement existing initiatives and inspire others to promote an understanding of civic values in the young. The main opposition parties have indicated their general support and many organisations have welcomed it and given valuable advice.

**T**he values reflected in this award can be caught from good example but, sadly, this does not always exist. Thus, logically, they should be taught. Some critics have argued that teaching civic responsibility in schools would be repressive. They have scorned the idea of "A" levels in morality. It would appear that in a desperate bid to bolster their argument they are playing devil's advocate — if such an absurd notion had even been contemplated it would be worthy of scorn.

The real issue is that educational accomplishment and examination success are hollow achievements without a sense of our civilisation and an appreciation of the values that sustain it. The history of the great religions and all that is

**The young  
need to  
feel pride  
and hope  
in their  
society'**

most noble in philosophy show that it is not only inspiring role models but also practical precepts that underpin good conduct. From the Ten Commandments to the teachings of Kant, the lesson is that people need to be taught a code by which to live and to attain true happiness.

One writer took me to task for having the effrontery to call for improvements in our society from the comfort of a middle-class home. It is a valid point. Many of us in the suburbs are insulated from the harshest evidence of social breakdown. I heard about it from my husband's work in inner-city schools. I met it first-hand when the ugly violence of the streets penetrated my family home last Christmas and brought me into contact with the emptiness of lives led by the abandoned young. My situation is indeed, different from theirs. Pain is not analogous. That seems to be no reason why one should not try to comprehend and try to help. Further, it is not only patronising but absurd to suggest that people in straitened circumstances have no choice. The vast majority do not engage in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour as a way out. Of course, it is difficult and that is why urgent help must be given. Young people need to feel hope and pride in themselves and their society.

Many organisations exist which strive to reduce feelings of alienation and failure. The Dick Sheppard Youth Centre in Brixton and The Prince's Trust are two out of many which work with young people to promote self-worth and to encourage enterprise, self-reliance and a chance to escape dependency. Politicians have responded to a call from the suburbs to change the law on knives but it is in the inner cities that the greatest benefit will be felt.

And of course, the suburbs are far from immune to improvement. Television and computer screens have supplanted the natural world and the printed page as the primary source of wonder. This compartmental culture leads to adolescent self-absorption and — if we are not careful — the imagination of the next generation will become impoverished. Nature programmes are wonderful but they are not nature. Paintings on a computer screen are not art. Art like nature, breathes.

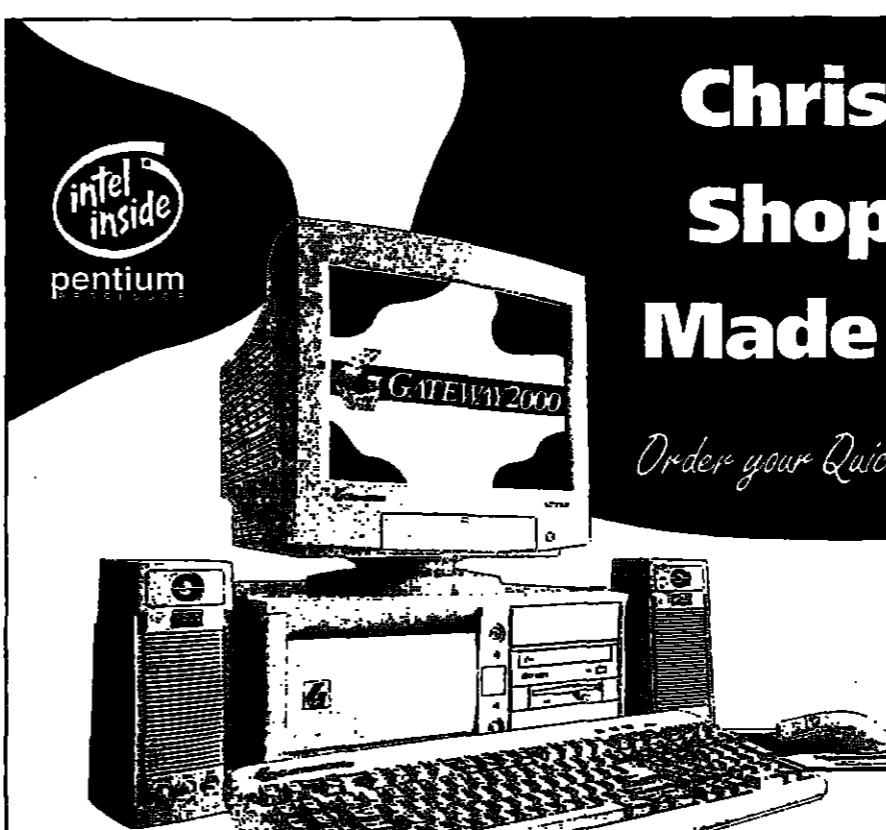
It is not only this narrowing of horizons that concerns me; however, it is a weakening of belief in the power of the individual. The pace of technological change far from empowering, is engendering panic. Hundreds of people who have written to me feel control over their lives has passed from them. Previously familiar figures of authority in their community have become impersonal forces. This generates a sense of hopelessness and an enforced apathy which mark the turning away from society and the withdrawal into insubstantial private pleasures that only accelerate the fraying of civic bonds.

**A**nd yet people can rediscover their capacity to make a difference. If, in the words of E.M. Forster, we "only connect" then we can regenerate society. Through correspondence and conversation, between neighbours, in schools and churches and by involvement in voluntary bodies, the individual can find her voice amplified. The British have a traditional reluctance to become busybodies. Unless we participate and accept civic responsibility, we will lose control over the formation of our society to the bully and the unaccountable authoritarian.

**What happened when the  
winner of our screenwriting  
competition went to  
Hollywood? See the Arts  
pages 29-31**



Frances and Lucien Lawrence: "I am haunted by the pain apparent in letters from teenagers whose lives have been stilted or damaged"



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# The balance of Teuton and Gaul

Anatole Kaletsky says Britain must be the pivot of Europe

**C**reation of a European monetary union is now almost inevitable. That is the bad news that came last week out of Dublin. The good news, however, is almost equally clear: France won a decisive victory over Germany in the monetary battle of Dublin. As a result, it is now almost certain that the euro will be a relatively soft currency, managed more in the style of the French franc and Italian lira than the present-day German mark. This is what economists and investors of an intellectual bent sometimes describe as a "paradigm shift": an event that suddenly changes the way the world appears.

The paradigm shift from a hard to a soft euro is good news for both Britain and Europe from an economic perspective, since it could give Europe more pragmatic macroeconomic management, and help to pull it out of the morass of stagnation and unemployment. But there are even more important ramifications for Britain in Europe's shift from a hard to a soft monetary union.

The tangible evidence of the shift at Dublin was the effective shredding of the German-inspired stability pact. The French and their allies (including Britain) diluted to the point of invisibility the German proposals for levying fines on governments in the monetary union which allegedly mismanage their domestic finances.

The original terms of the stability pact proposed by Germany would have imposed enormous financial penalties on many countries, with the money flowing into the coffers of the EU and being used ultimately to reduce the contributions of its member countries above all Germany.

If the German version of a stability pact had existed over the past 25 years, the cumulative fines imposed on France, never mind Italy, would have been greater, when adjusted for inflation, than the total reparations paid by Germany after the First World War. Fortunately, nothing of this kind is now likely to happen.

The deal agreed in Dublin leaves decisions on penalising economic mismanagement entirely to politicians. It also ensures that a sufficient majority to impose fines will never be mustered. Because of the EU rules on qualified majority voting, Italy, for example, would need the support of only two other large countries to avoid paying fines, regardless of how it managed its domestic finances. Is it likely that politicians from Spain, Greece or even France would ever vote against fellow Mediterranean governments, knowing full well that next time they themselves might be in the dock?

Not if you ask Ottmar Issing, the exasperated chief economist of the Bundesbank, who analysed the situation with characteristic clarity in a speech he delivered a few hours before the stability pact was signed last Friday: "If you leave the decisions [on fines] to political bodies, then you have

## Germany's stability pact was shredded in Dublin

strongly supported by France, which is no longer intimidated by German threats to give up monetary union and now sees a real possibility of wresting control of the single currency from the start from Germany and its Northern client states.

This is where Britain's political strategy comes in. Until recently it was reasonable for Britain to assume that the euro zone would consist of a "hard core" of Northern countries dominated by Germany — and that alliances with Germany would be the key to defending British interests in the councils of the EU. It now looks increasingly likely that Europe will be dominated by France and the Mediterranean states, operating in perpetual tension with Germany.

This is not necessarily bad news from Britain's standpoint. For a Britain that consciously chooses to remain on the prosperous periphery of Europe, there is much to be gained from the growth of friendly dissension between Germany and France. Britain must now identify its national interests as clearly as the French and the Spanish — and pursue them as ruthlessly in the EU, throwing its weight alternately behind the Germans and the Mediterraneans, depending on our own national advantage. Monetary union will strain the Franco-German alliance that used to dominate Europe, almost to breaking point. There could be no better time to revive Britain's traditional European diplomacy, based on the balance of power.

Actually, it is impossible to quarrel with the thesis that some people get obscure emotional satisfactions from irrational shopping. In the survey they ran up huge debts, remortgaged their houses and did things like buying 160 pairs of shoes to compensate for their dull marriages. A clear link was found between addictive spending and a background of abuse, bereavement or depression. The researchers found classic patterns of levered anticipation and climax followed by self-disgust and secrecy. Add the Duchess of York's autobiography and you have a syndrome.

Most of us can open cupboards and point to certain objects bought out of psychological, not material, need: unwearable leggings to make us feel chic, impractical underwear to make us feel sexy, wooden ducks to make us feel like children, computer gizmos we never learn to operate, flaky hats that seemed a good idea when we were weaving down Regent Street after the office party (in the Disney Store the other evening, everybody in sight was visibly tipsy). A friend of mine once bought a very expensive and nasty heart-rug simply because she had just been introduced to the newlywed Princess of Wales and felt she ought to celebrate. Certain men cheer themselves up in winter by going into chemists' shops and buying tub after tub of vitamins and herbal pick-me-ups which they put on the shelf and never touch again. Even poverty is no protection: 10 per cent of the avowed shopaholics in the survey were on benefits. And it gets more complicated. The emotional neediness of the shopper is not necessarily selfish. One of the most fascinating recurring phenomena of modern Christmas is the craze toy shortage, repeated every couple of years amid panic, mass anxiety and sometimes actual fights.

One year there were scenes of tugging and weeping over Cabbage Patch dolls; now something called Tickle Me Elmo has caused American parents to fly in and raid Selfridge's, and the spaceman Buzz Lightyear is unobtainable in Britain.

# Weston union

THE HUGE grin on the face of John Weston, the British Ambassador to the United Nations, when he came sprinting out of Friday's meeting of the Security Council after the new Secretary-General had been chosen, was due to more than exuberance. He had just been engaged in his favourite pastime: getting one over the French.

He took the waiting journalists by surprise, emerging from the conclave to brief them a fair clip ahead of the pack. With America, Britain had ensured that Kofi Annan, an American-educated Ghanaian, overcame the blocking tactics of the French, who wanted to appoint one of several French-speaking candidates.

Weston's colleagues from his days as Ambassador to Nato in Brussels recall his tussles with the French. He was the first and last Ambassador to Nato memory actually to storm out of a meeting in a rage, after being needled by the French Ambassador, Gabrielle Robin. Quite right too, after Robin had snidely remarked "We are used to Weston telling stories".

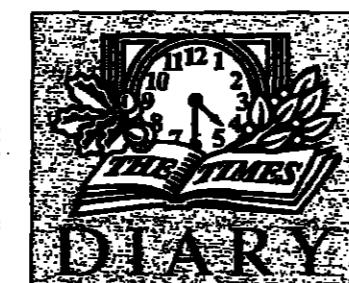
To round off the chaos of the meeting, when Weston returned, he was so flustered he managed to

## Place cards

GEOGRAPHY lessons are in order for Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, who grew horribly confused when buying the



Our man Weston



stamps for his Christmas cards in the House of Commons post office the other day.

He was told by the clerk that there were three rates for foreign mail: one for the world except Europe, one for the EU, and one for European countries outside the EU.

Smith riffed through his cards, then asked "Is Israel in Europe?" Although it competes in the Eurovision Song Contest, he was told, it is not in Europe.

"What about Switzerland," he then said, "is that in the EU?"

## Choke out

TURNING OUT for the Department of Transport ranks low on most celebrities' public appearances lists. So the department found itself embarrassed when it had to

find one to launch its consultative document on new car licence plates to replace the current batch, which will soon run out of letters. The department booked an Aston Martin showcar in Berkeley Street, London, and then tried to get Jackie Stewart to come. No dice. Stewart was busy.

Damon Hill? Not a chance. Oh, all right, Stirling Moss will do anything. Except, it turned out, appear on behalf of the Department of Transport. So, enter Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Maybe not so glamorous, but even so reliable.

Smith rifled through his cards, then asked "Is Israel in Europe?" Although it competes in the Eurovision Song Contest, he was told, it is not in Europe.

"What about Switzerland," he then said, "is that in the EU?"

## Take a bow

RETURNING to the screen as the BBC's answer to Melvyn Bragg is Alan Yentob, director of programmes for BBC television. An uncompromising John Birnman and former controller of BBC1, Yentob has only appeared on television himself in the past few years as an awards presenter and management talking head. Now

he has interviewed the rock star David Bowie in a sequel to an interview he did in 1975 as a 28-year-old producer for the *Omnibus* programme.

Twenty-one years later the time came to interview Bowie again, so who better than Alan Yentob? explained a Yentob loyalist.

Back in 1975, the two tortured young men drove around the tough streets of LA in a limousine. This time, for *Changes: Bowie at 50*, with waistlines expanded and wardrobes full of Armani, they

booked a suite at the Soho Grand Hotel in Greenwich Village.

● Laundry day in Hampshire House, New York, will be an even noisier affair now that it is home to all three of the Three Tenors. José Carreras has just moved into the block on Central Park South, joining Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in a set-up which should be familiar to watchers of Channel 4's *Friends*.

P.H.S



## Is obsessive buying a real disorder?

Just ask any toy-crazed parent

another father remembering his own loveless childhood and resolving that he would do better by his own kid — by sleeping rough all night to buy a lump of moulded plastic. It was, without exaggeration, very like a pilgrimage.

Perhaps that is why the politicians are wary of saying much about the retail craze, beyond the usual mantra about "consumer-led recovery". Perhaps they are wary because it has acquired the ninnism, dangerous power of religion. Every year, shopping takes over more and more of our lives. Shops have swallowed post offices, so that there is no longer any civic, unconsummation dignity in taxing your car or drawing your pension. There are to be doctors' surgeries in supermarkets; already there is a Sunday school run by the Salvation Army as a response to Sabbath shopping.

Of course to some of us, a session down the high street or mall is not an thrill but an ordeal of queues, overheating, muzak and frustration. So we may think we have evaded the new social disease. But no, shopping reaches its tentacles out even to those who think they abhor it. I do almost everything by mail order and have noted an unsettling tendency to do the actual deed in moments of boredom and depression, barking my credit-card number down the telephone and gabbling product numbers as if I were gulping maths. Looking around my study at this very moment, I concede that it is possible that even the Christmas season does not justify ten pairs of tap-dancing clackers, eight novelty wigs and a camping kettle.

The future grows more sinister. Interactive computer shopping is on the way, so that soon nobody need even pick up the phone to QVC or Racing Green, let alone drive to Thorrock for a retail orgy. Rather than a respite in the national shopping disease, it will be an aggravated phase. Human beings will not have to interact with one another in the street at all, but only with idealised and artfully lit products, so that like monkeys in a laboratory we need only push buttons to achieve surges of pleasure. As buying grows ever easier and faster, the pleasure will grow more elusive, the need for a hit ever greater.

No wonder politicians are so quiet on the subject of shopping and shopping diseases. They are scared. So am I.

## Libby Purves

skulduggery about consignments of robots from Taiwan. At one point he uttered the immortal line: "I once had to sit up drinking all night with a man to get some *Treasy Dolls* in." One day I shall write a blockbuster novel about this cut-throat world, and sweep SAS fiction off the shelves as every real man fantasises about being the hero who pulls off the *Tickle Me Elmo* coup.

The future grows more sinister.

Interactive computer shopping is on

the way, so that soon nobody need even pick up the phone to QVC or Racing Green, let alone drive to Thorrock for a retail orgy. Rather than a respite in the national shopping disease, it will be an aggravated phase. Human beings will not have to interact with one another in the street at all, but only with idealised and artfully lit products, so that like monkeys in a laboratory we need only push buttons to achieve surges of pleasure. As buying grows ever easier and faster, the pleasure will grow more elusive, the need for a hit ever greater.

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So am I.

## General Chi's big lie

Tiananmen is still taboo, says Jonathan Mirsky

Military etiquette must have been strained last week among several hundred American military officers at the US National Defense University when General Chi Haotian, China's Defence Minister, solemnly pronounced: "I can tell you in a responsible and serious matter that at that time not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square."

As Nicholas Burns, the State Department's punctilious spokesman, commented, this is "unfortunate" and "inaccurate". I was in Tiananmen on the night of June 3, 1989 and saw people shot down. Western photographers took pictures of bodies in hospital morgues.

In Washington DC on ten-day visit which included a chat with President Clinton, General Chi was answering a Navy officer's question about what happened that night. He admitted there had been some "pushing" of "hooligans" who egged on "students" staging a "sit-in" in Tiananmen Square. He guaranteed that such things would not recur.

President Clinton rescheduled his meeting with General Chi to avoid International Human Rights Day, but he barely raised the issue with his guest. Yet General Chi's statement was too much for Nicholas Burns. His words "inaccurate" and "unfortunate" might also be used, however, of the Defense Department's biographical handout about General Chi, which omits to say that he was in operational command on the night of the Tiananmen killings. Pressed by journalists to justify the omission, the spokesman said that General Chi had not been "the architect" of the killings.

No political issue is more sensitive in China than the Tiananmen Square repression. I hope it shames General Chi when I say that although only four graves are known, estimates of the dead in Peking range from 500 to 3,000. The killing was seen by tens of thousands. Similar repression, hardly known in the West, is acknowledged to have taken place in more than 80 cities that June, with thousands of deaths. After the violence came the nationwide interrogations, imprisonments and executions of thousands more. All these people had friends and relatives. In their hearts, therefore, a substantial number of Chinese demand an accounting and a "reversal of verdicts". One of the few who made her demand out loud was Professor Ding Zilin, of Peking's People's University, whose son was killed in Tiananmen Square, and who organised a petition of other mothers who lost their children. She was first placed under house arrest and then sent into remote exile.

Congressman Chris Smith invited General Chi to testify to the House International Operations and Human Rights subcommittee, which he chairs. What sort of evidence would General Chi marshal to counter eyewitness stories, if he chose to stick to the line that "not a single person lost his life"? I cannot imagine.

There are a marble bridge near the Tiananmen gate over which hangs a huge portrait of Mao Zedong. For millions of Chinese who visit the square from around the country, this is a place to stand and have a picture taken. Late on June 3, 1989, I was beaten there by People's Armed Police, wielding long truncheons. Around me, Chinese were suffering the same treatment — but when they were knocked to the ground other armed police shot them. Next morning, I lay flat on the street as People's Liberation Army soldiers mowed down members of a crowd milling about in front of the Peking Hotel, perhaps 100 yards from the square. They were trying to enter it to search for their relatives. When an ambulance from a nearby hospital arrived, the soldiers shot its doctors too.

Nicholas Kristoff of *The New York Times*, who was in the Square that night, reported "the troops began shooting . . . some people fell to the ground, wounded or dead . . . each time the soldiers fired again and more people fell to the ground." When he went to the Xiehe Hospital, the nearest to the square "it was a bloody mess, with hundreds of injured lying on the floors . . . I saw the bullet holes in the ambulances."

Jan Wong of *The Toronto Globe and Mail*, looking down from a balcony in the Peking Hotel with Cathy Sampson of this newspaper, "watched in horror as the army shot directly into the crowds . . . people fell with gushing wounds". Later, she reported, "The soldiers strafed ambulances and shot medical workers trying to rescue the wounded". Jan Wong, 14 floors above me when I saw people being shot in front of the hotel, wrote "I counted more than twenty bodies". I crawled away, but she kept watching. "In all," she reported, "I recorded eight long murderous volleys. Dozens died before my eyes."

The enraged crowd, which up to that point had been shouting "Kill [Premier] Li Peng," sometimes drifted away when it rained, but would soon return. When it did, "many more people died". Jan Wong remembers thinking "How strange it was that Pekingers didn't want to get wet, but they weren't afraid of getting killed." Nor were General Chi's soldiers afraid of killing them.



All three tenors: washing-day will be the merrier

Stamp for his Christmas cards in the House of Commons post office the other day.

He was told by the clerk that there were three rates for foreign mail: one for the world except Europe, one for the EU, and one for European countries outside the EU.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996



## STORMY WATERS

The Government's passage through the winter looks fraught

The long auction of promises which preceded yesterday's fishing debate, as brazen, as any Billingsgate sale, will have done nothing for the standing either of Parliament or this Government. The fishermen and farmers were having their wounds bound rather than their palms greased; but there is little dignified about this anguished prostration of special interests, however deserving. In the month, perhaps even weeks, which remain in this Parliament there will be other close votes which the Government will strain to win with cajolery and concessions.

The fishing industry has been an early beneficiary. The Fisheries Minister, Tony Baldry, unwrapped a pre-Christmas package last month with an extra £12 million for the voluntary decommissioning of fishing vessels, a commitment from the European Commission to consult fishermen more closely on conservation policy and a pledge to re-negotiate the common fisheries policy to end the foreign appropriation of UK fishing quotas. The interests of coastal constituencies addressed, the Government yesterday sought allies across the water with policies presented as friendly to Ulster's producers of fish and beef.

Whether this Government will survive long enough to see significant changes through remains in doubt. Conservative strategists may wish to wait until May before going to the country in the hope that a rising tide of prosperity may carry them to victory. Events may mock such hopes. Even if John Major avoids losing a vote of confidence then any march to the election will involve the skirting of a succession of cliffs. Government by fingermail is unlikely to inspire the electorate.

If the Prime Minister is determined to hold out, he has two sources of solace. The Government's remaining legislative programme is relatively uncontroversial. On everything from tax cuts to criminal justice

Labour has declined to alienate potential voters with outright opposition. So room for ambush is limited. Moreover, the Ulster Unionists are still just likely to support the Government in most potential confidence votes. The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, used an interview this weekend to issue a demand for an early election. If Sinn Fein want to accelerate the election it is in Unionist interests to delay. The Leader of the Ulster Unionists, David Trimble, has said that he will do nothing "capricious". That suggests Mr Trimble is, at present, inclined not to end this Parliament prematurely.

Set against those consolations is the possibility of a set-piece vote on a matter where Conservatives who expect general election defeat might be tempted to make a stand and where Unionist support could not be assured. There are enough conceivable occasions of danger to ensure that Tory nerves are strained throughout the winter and spring.

Conservative business managers have exerted themselves to prevent any substantive vote on the Commons on the regulations which will govern European monetary union. Although MPs were allowed to let off steam for two days last week on a general motion prior to the Dublin summit the Tory whips have been strenuous in trying to prevent an occasion arising where the House might divide on a single currency — knowing that such a division would be perilous.

The Conservatives may conclude that it would be better to call a general election early in the new year rather than risk being boxed into a corner. But, whenever an election might be called, the scale of Conservative dissent with the Government's "wait and see" policy will become embarrassingly apparent. However well-drilled MPs are in the Commons, Conservative candidates are unlikely to fall so easily into line.

## HEAD TO HEAD

Airbus has redoubled trouble in its flightpath

Europe's political classes chatter ceaselessly about the pros and cons of integrating the defence of Europe; the quantity of talk always exceeds action by a large margin. In the case of Europe's defence and aerospace industries, relatively little public talk occurs; but the industry reorganises itself anyway. It has little choice. The global market is developing so fast that even the most agile European industries have not been quick enough to keep up with preparations for the 21st century. The merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to form the world's largest aerospace company should further concentrate European minds.

The effective absorption of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing eliminates another rival from a world market in civilian airliners which is becoming a head-to-head contest between Boeing and Airbus Industrie. Aircraft-building firms coalesce into larger and larger units because only the largest revenue-earners can pay for the developments that win giant contracts. McDonnell Douglas's fate was sealed by its abandonment of an ambitious and expensive project to design a new wide-bodied passenger aircraft and by the firm's elimination from the short-list to develop America's new military strike jet. The latter contract was won by a joint bid headed by Boeing.

Recent transatlantic competition to sell jets underlines that while Airbus is big and unwieldy, Boeing is big and wieldy. In 1994, Airbus briefly topped Boeing's total of aircraft sold, but has since fallen behind because it offers an alternative to Boeing in all markets except for jumbo jets.

Both manufacturers now have long order books thanks to the rationalisation of airlines in the US and economic growth creating cash-rich buyers. But Airbus cur-

rently remains a coordinating and marketing company, controlled by British Aerospace, France's Aerospatiale, Germany's Daimler-Benz and Spain's CASA. Each shareholding firm is guaranteed quotas of work, limiting the firm's ability to shop around for the most competitive prices. The companies have agreed to create a giant company, which would include a large segment of Europe's aeronautical capacity, but the negotiations have been painfully slow. To no one's great surprise, Aerospatiale and its state shareholders in Paris have been the most markedly reluctant to move the goalposts. French governments enjoy talking about "building Europe" but, when it comes to construction work which involves loosening the State's grip on what civil servants see as a national economic interest, quite different priorities apply.

In a revealing and dispiriting loss of nerve this month, the French Government stopped the sale of the ailing electronic business Thomson to Korea's Daewoo. Airbus will only be reformed as an agile and aggressive company if its sponsors have the self-confidence to look beyond the near term to the survival requirements of a major aircraft manufacturer over the next two decades. Lumbering consortiums vulnerable to politicians' whims will not hold off the next challenge the big Asian manufacturing businesses which fancy their chances in the airliner market.

French defensiveness is all the odder in the light of the country's powerful exporting performance over the last few years. If Airbus cares to look at the way in which Boeing has successfully adapted to the challenge from Europe, its executives will see that they now have no good grounds for either hesitation or complacency.

The good accident record is pur-

chased at the cost of community severance.

But the good accident record gets used as a basis for decision-making: officially the road is deemed safe, and in need of no measures to calm the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN ADAMS,  
University College London,  
Geography Department,  
26 Bedford Way, WC1.  
December 10.

### Care of South Downs

From Councillor Mark Dunn

Sir, As a member of Chichester District Council whose own ward comprises some 25 square miles of South Downs countryside, and as a member of the development control committee of this, one of the largest planning authorities in the South Downs area, I can assure the nine signatories to today's letter that there is nothing "fragile" or "vulnerable" about the existing legislative and constitutional systems protecting the South Downs, that glorious part of our heritage, from sectional and ill-judged development plans.

It follows that there is no need for them to canvass for the establishment of a National Park when those responsible for overall management and conservation would not be elected, would not be local, and would not have to face up to constant review by an educated and well-informed electorate.

Yours faithfully,

MARK DUNN,  
Wildham, Stourham,  
Chichester, West Sussex.  
December 11.

## A JOKE AND A JAR A DAY

Social surveys should be entertainment as well as science

Laughter and alcohol (in moderation) are good for you. A scientific survey by researchers at the University of Hull finds this to be so; so it must be true. Dr Geoff Lowe yesterday presented the findings to a meeting of the British Psychological Society, thus confirming the unscientific justifications down the millennia of men moving unsteadily home from the inn.

For not only can jokes and a drink interact medically to improve the circulation of the blood and stimulate the phagocytes; a questionnaire answered by 332 social drinkers on Humberstone shows that those who drank more were mentally less stressed and more inclined to see the funny side of life.

Some aspects of the Hull experiment were rigorous as well as merely interrogative. Two groups of people were asked to watch the first 20 minutes of *The Naked Gun*. Statistics plotted on graphs and illustrated pie diagrams showed that those who were given two bottles of strong lager laughed more than the control group, who received an alcohol-free drink that only tasted like lager. A gloriously tacky spoof cop-thriller, with corny old gags, hoary clichés and laddish silliness can provide more fun than Merchant-Ivory *bons mots* or Woody Allen witcisms — if observed through a friendly mist of a few drinks.

For such endlessly tasteless and unsophisticated juvenilia would make an audience

ashamed of laughing itself into a stupor, unless it were already half stupefied. This connection between laughter and alcohol has been suspected since Bacchus cracked the first joke, and then told it back to front. But the job of research is to confirm such archetypal folklore. Just as man needs science to solve all the problems he would not have if there were no science, so he needs research to verify his primitive prejudices. The research industry consists largely of such verification projects, as can be seen from any catalogue of proposed doctoral theses from a modern university. Such ancient platitudes as Murphy's Law — "if anything can go wrong, it will" — have been demonstrated by a dozen research projects at considerable expense.

But not only are alcohol and jokes now officially good for us. Scientific surveys must be good for us too. Being stopped in public by researchers with clipboards and impertinent questions is one of the pleasures of life, we are told, especially if there are cameras to record instant fame. The psychologists in Hull who thought of researching local pubs in order to conduct their quantity survey of jolliness knew they had a good topic. But their findings as well as their methodology are philanthropic. They have not only confirmed an unproved ancestral suspicion. By their own actions, they must also have improved the public health.

All British passports may "look alike" to Mr Patten but they most certainly are not alike in their worth. British Overseas Citizens, British Protected Persons, British Nationals (Overseas) and British Subjects are all British nationals under the British Nationality Act, 1981, but they do not

have right of entry to the United Kingdom — a country of which they are nationals.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN ADAMS,  
University College London,  
Geography Department,  
26 Bedford Way, WC1.  
December 10.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Balancing risks is a risky business

From Mr James Rothman

Sir, Nigel Hawkes (Mind and Matter, December 9) asks for a Richter-type scale that enables different risks to be compared. I suggest the number of deaths (or possibly unfortunate events) per thousand person years spent on the activity. This is the same as 8.75 million people engaging in the activity for an hour.

On this "Rothman scale of risk", in terms of death, driving a car scores about 1.5, walking 2.25, cycling 6 and riding a motorcycle nearly 50. Accidents deaths in normal life score about 0.2.

This measure seems to me to be better than suggestions involving logarithms since it is easier to understand and increases with increasing risk. It also has the advantage that unlike deaths per thousand people it takes into account the fact that we spend more time on some activities than others.

My only concern is that people may think that all the numbers indicate greater risks than is in fact the case. Even 50 for riding a motorcycle represents quite a small risk for the occasional rider. Nigel Hawkes mentions playing Russian roulette. Allowing a generous hour per game this scores about 1.5 million.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES ROTHMAN (Consultant in  
marketing and economic research),  
25 Norfolk Road, NW3.  
December 9.

From Dr John Adams

Sir, "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making" according to the Royal Statistical Society. Nigel Hawkes quotes the risk of dying in a road accident — 1 in 8,000 — as an example of a potentially useful statistic. The number, based on last year's data, is closer to 1 in 16,000. But this error is trivial compared to the complications that would arise should an individual seek to base a decision upon it.

A young man is 100 times more likely to die in a road accident than a middle-aged woman; someone driving at 3am, Sunday, 134 times more likely than someone driving at 10am, Sunday; someone with a personality disorder ten times, and someone two and half times over the alcohol limit. 20 times. If these factors were all independent of each other one could predict that a disturbed, drunken young man driving at 3am Sunday would be about 2.7 million times more likely to die than a normal, sober, middle-aged woman driving to church a few hours later.

These four factors, of course, are not independent; there are probably proportionately more drunken and disturbed young men on the road in the early hours of the morning than at other times of day. But I have listed only four complicating factors from a very long list. Does the car have worn brakes, bald tyres, a loose suspension, a valid tax disc? Is the road well-lit, dry, foggy, straight, narrow, clear, congested? Is the driver sleepy, angry, aggressive, on drugs?

There is no reason to suppose that all these factors plus many more, can influence your chances of arriving safely. Whether the number used in the Richter scale for road accidents is 18,000 or 1:16,000, it is difficult to see how it could serve as the basis of a decision.

Using past accident rates to estimate future risks can be positively misleading. There are many dangerous roads with good accident records because they are perceived to be dangerous — children are forbidden to cross them; old people are afraid to, and fit adults cross them quickly and carefully.

The good accident record is purchased at the cost of community severance. But the good accident record gets used as a basis for decision-making: officially the road is deemed safe, and in need of no measures to calm the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN ADAMS,  
University College London,  
Geography Department,  
26 Bedford Way, WC1.  
December 10.

### Debate on rules of royal succession

From Mr Nigel Miskin

Sir, It hardly seems opportune, with all the vital issues now before the public, to initiate a debate and take up parliamentary time on so rarified a question as whether women should have equal rights to succeed to the throne (report, December 10; article, December 11).

The point raised may have some emotional significance for the politically correct, but its greatest impact would be on the successor to Prince William (assuming he becomes king) several decades from now. Is it not arrogant for us to presume to dictate to future generations in this way?

Also, is there any precedent for postponing or abrogating the vested rights of those already in the order of succession (in this case the Princess Royal being raised above the Duke of York, his little daughters and Prince Edward) without any grave political reason to do so?

I would not like to dwell on a future likely consequence, namely the appearance at the Bar of the House of Lords of dozens of hopeful ladies and gentlemen claiming, on grounds of "fairness", to revive extinct hereditary peerages.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL MISKIN,  
149 Hurlingham Road, SW6.  
December 11.

From Mr J. D. Semken

Sir, I do hope that those who support the principle of sexual equality in all things will bear in mind that legislation to secure that end in relation to the succession to the throne might well destroy the monarchy. The effect of such legislation would be to create a usurping line, so that at some time in the future a princess would not go to her coronation as undoubtedly Sovereign of this realm. Moreover, she would go to Westminster Abbey accompanied not only by her husband and children, but by her mother the disinherited heiress, and his family whom all the world would be watching for signs of resentment.

Inevitably, the feeling would grow that, rather than that A should bow to B (when properly B should be bowing to A), would it not be embarrassing if nobody bowed to anybody?

There are some things which Parliament cannot do. It cannot alter history and it cannot alter facts. And, if the Coronation Oath is to have any substance, there are some things which Parliament ought not even to try to do, gratuitously and without compelling reason.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SEMKEN,  
2 The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7.  
December 9.

### Debt to surviving PoWs of Japanese

From Mr Anthony L. Burton

Sir, The treatment of British PoWs forced to build the railway in Siam (now Thailand) during the Second World War was considered so bad that for the first time ever a compensation clause was included in the 1951 peace treaty.

Japan, defeated and broke, could only offer to each country their frozen assets to be used for this purpose. Here in Great Britain this worked out at only £72 for each former PoW.

The Japanese maintain that they have paid the amount agreed and that there can be no further claims (report, December 5). One suspects that creating a precedent is greatly feared, as this would lead to a flood of claims from other countries, such as China, which could not possibly be met. Both the British and the Japanese know that countermeasures cannot be taken as we are too involved commercially; and time is not on the side of these PoWs — even those who are still living must be aged 70 or over.

Bearing in mind that our Government signed away our claims for a pitiful sum, surely it should advance the £135 million at issue to the remaining survivors. It could then demand reimbursement on some future occasion, when Japan may want something from us, such as our support for their membership of the Security Council. By that time there probably will be no survivors left.

Yours,  
A. L. BURTON  
(PoW, Siam, 1942-45).  
57 Fairaces,  
Roehampton Lane, SW13.  
December 10.

### Future of Royal Yacht

From Mr A. V. Alexander  
and Mr William Clarke

Sir, There was a strong demand in the House of Lords this week for an early decision on the future of the Royal Yacht Britannia (report, December 11). Lord Ashbourne, chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht parliamentary group, put the point succinctly, asking: "Has not the Government sat on the fence for long enough?"

Since the present Royal Yacht will complete her last voyage, before replacement or de-commissioning, when she takes the Prince of Wales to Hong Kong next summer, such a decision is becoming urgent. The Cabinet committee examining its future was originally expected to announce decisions by the end of 1995, both about the building and financing of a new vessel and about the future of the present vessel.

On that basis the Greenwich Britannia Project put in a formal bid to the Cabinet committee in the autumn of 1995 for the present Royal Yacht to be berthed permanently in Greenwich, with its unique royal, naval and maritime associations, just ahead of the millennium celebrations. We set out exactly how that decision would benefit the nation, and we outlined possible methods of finance.

Although we were promised an early decision, the Cabinet committee later indicated a delay since the disposal of the present vessel was naturally linked to any decision about a new vessel. That was six months ago. Meanwhile fundraising opportunities (dare one say lottery heritage applications?) are being missed month by month. This is one decision that should not await the election.

Yours sincerely,  
A. V. ALEXANDER,  
WILLIAM CLARKE,  
Joint Chairmen,  
Greenwich Britannia Project,  
12 Croome Hill,  
Greenwich, SE10.  
December 11.

### MPs' pay

From Mr Granville Davies

Sir, The suggestion that higher pay may be one way to continue to attract good judges (article, Law, December 10) reminds me of the recent substantial wage increase awarded themselves by MPs.

Not only has their parliamentary performance sharpened immeasurably, but we can look forward to a high incursion of new talent at the forthcoming general election, probably.

Yours truly,  
GRANVILLE DAVIES,  
5 Warren Wood, Warren Road,  
Crowborough, East Sussex



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** December 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a Luncheon at Frogmore House, Windsor Home Park.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE** December 16: The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the offices of Perspectives magazine at Hinde Street, London W1.

### Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will open the new facilities at the Maudsley Hospital, SE5, at 4.00.

The Duke of Kent will attend the Bach Choir carol concert at St James's Palace at 6.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend

a joy to the World Christmas

celebration at the Albert Hall at 7.15.

### Service dinner

**Combined Cadet Force** Admiral Sir Peter Abbot, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, was the principal guest at the annual officers' dinner of the Combined Cadet Force Association held last night at the Imperial Hotel, London. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett presided and Lieutenant-Colonel R.F. Somerset, of Winchester College, was chairman of the dinner. Major-General A.M. Keeling, Major-General P.C. Shapland, Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Harding and Air Vice-Marshal R.J. Honey were among the guests.

### Luncheon

**Cardiff Business Club** The High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr R.P.V. Rees and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Max Phillips, were present at a luncheon held by the Club yesterday in honour of the Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces. Mr Brian K. Thomas, Chairman, Cardiff Business Club, presided.

### YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 16: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Jolyon Williams on assuming the appointment of Regimental Secretary and Colonel Joseph Horner on relinquishing the appointment.

### Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Little was christened Georgia Elizabeth Medina by the Rev John Robson, Chaplain to The Queen, at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, on Thursday, December 12. The godparents are Sir Michael Richardson, Mr Adam Signy, Mrs Corinne Milne-Cowper and Mrs Sara Watkins.

### Institute of Biology

The following have been elected as Fellows and may use the desigatory letters F.I.Biol.: Professor William Allen, Professor Colin Blaxter, Dr Alexander Brooks, Dr Roderick Cawie, Dr Susan Duke, Dr Michael Elliott, Dr Peter Hammond, Mr Trevor Harvey, Dr Graham Jenkins, Dr Keith Kendrick, Professor Brian Legg, Dr Ronald Lewis-Smith, Dr Robert Moor, Dr Jeremy Roberts, Dr John Speakman.

Call 0171 581 8333 for information on membership.

### School news

**Northwood Preparatory School** The Governors are pleased to announce that Mr Trevor Lee, currently Headmaster of Hendon Preparatory School, has been appointed to succeed Mr Nigel Flynn as Headmaster in April 1997 and congratulate Mr Flynn on his appointment as Headmaster of Twickenham Preparatory School.

### Rabbi Hugo Gryn

In memory of the late Rabbi Gryn, a scholarship fund will be set up for students to attend Allendale College – a place he loved.

Information: Atlantic College, Llanwrt Major, Wales, CF61 4WF. 0171 388 4009.

### Today's birthdays

**Mr Peter Blackburn**, president, Nestle France, 56; Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 96; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 51; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 51; Mr David Collett, chairman, Volunteer Centre, UK, 62; Viscount Daventry, 75; Lord de Villiers, 85; Lord Glenarnock, CH, 84; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 52; Miss Gwendoline Kirby, former matron, Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, 85; the Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, *The Sunday Telegraph*, 40;

Mr Tom Mayer, electronic engineer, 68; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing and broadcasting companies, 59; Sir Leonard Peach, former chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 64.

Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 69; Mr D.A.G. Smith, former Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 62; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 60; Professor W.A.C. Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 81; Baroness Strange, 68; Mr Cecil Walker, MP, 72.

## University news

### Oxford

The Wainwright Fellowship for research into the non-classical archaeology of Northern Africa or the Near East has been awarded to Dr Nigel Spencer (Institute for Archaeology, Oxford University) for three years from January 1997. The 1996 Wainwright Prize has been awarded to Mr Tom Hardwick, Clifton College.

The Queen's College Electron Microscopy

To Scholarships: Katharine Allen, (formerly of Central Middle High School); Lauren S. Barrett (King Edward's School, Birmingham); Jonathan W. Bell (Norwich School); Max E. Brutsche (Schule Birklehof, Hinterzarten); Charles W. H. Champion (Arnold School, Blackpool); Jane S. Christie (Dunottar School, Reigate); Christopher J. Evans (St Mary's Comprehensive School, Ilkley); Eric H. D. Law (Royal Grammar School, Newcastle); Brendon W. Lovett (Matthew Murray High School, Leeds); Peter H. Master (Harrow School); Simon Webster McKnight (Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham); Andrew D. Morrison (The King's School, Chester); Ranick K. M. Ng (Queen's College, Taunton); Andrew P. Peake (Millfield School); Catherine E. Pearson (Boston State Comprehensive School); David Perell (Bolton School Boys' Division); E. Susan J. Pickford (Christ's Hospital, Horsham); Elizabeth K. Pound (Wellington College, Berkshire); Richard J. Price (Watford Boys' Grammar School).

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the civil war, Prague, 1619; Domenico Cimarese, composer, Naples, 1749; Sir Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1879; W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada 1921-26, 1926-30 and 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario, 1874.

**DEATHS:** Simon Bolívar, Liberator of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, Largs, Strathclyde, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's rights to practise medicine, Aldeburgh, 1917; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, essayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1965-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the Kitty Hawk, at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903.

The battle of the River Plate: the Graf Spee was scuttled off Montevideo, Uruguay, 1939.

The closure of the Suez Canal resulted in petrol rationing, 1956.

### Dinner

**Parliamentary and Scientific Committee**

Sir Michael Spicer, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, was the host at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons after a meeting of the committee at which Mr Ian Taylor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Technology, was the speaker.

### WESTERN KATE

On December 10th, Kate (née Armitage), and Nick, a daughter, celebrated jointies.

**TERRACCANO** On December 10th at The Portland Hospital to Karine and Louis, a son, Quirin, a lovely daughter, a sister for Lawrence.

**DEPUTY** - Peacefully on December 12th, Joan Holdsworth (née Smith) of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, widow of Sir Harry Holdsworth, much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, loving grandmother. Cremation at Amersham Cemetery on Saturday 21st December at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation or the British Lung Foundation c/o G. Smith & Son, Woburn Green, HP10 0EE.

**DOUGLAS** - Patricia May, peacefully but unexpectedly on December 12th, aged 60. She was a much loved wife of Anthony, mother of Caroline, and sister of Caroline, Linda and Sue. No flowers please. A service will be held in London later with friends.

**GARNER** - Irene (Gilly), peacefully but unexpectedly on December 12th, aged 78. Beloved wife of Walter, much loved mother of Linda and Sue, and loving grandmother. Cremation at Amersham Cemetery on Saturday 21st December at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation or the British Lung Foundation c/o G. Smith & Son, Woburn Green, HP10 0EE.

**GARTHORN** - On 14th December 1996 peacefully in hospital at home after a short illness. Beloved wife of Michael and mother of Helen and Sophie. Much loved mother of Michael and Sophie. Family cremation at Stockport Cemetery on Monday 16th December at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation or the British Lung Foundation c/o G. Smith & Son, Woburn Green, HP10 0EE.

**HARRIS** - Cyril, on 14th December 1996, peacefully at home after a short illness. Beloved husband and mother of Helen and Sophie. Much loved mother of Michael and Sophie. Family cremation at Stockport Cemetery on Monday 16th December at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation or the British Lung Foundation c/o G. Smith & Son, Woburn Green, HP10 0EE.

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## OBITUARIES

## SIR LAURENS VAN DER POST

Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer, died yesterday aged 90. He was born in South Africa on December 13, 1906.

In an age of rampant materialism, Laurens van der Post was a passionate and prominent champion of spiritual values. The precise nature of his spirituality was not always clear, and his more Messianic pronouncements could seem both portentous and imprecise; but the views he expressed in more than two dozen books struck a chord with millions of readers and made him an influential confidant of public figures as diverse as Margaret Thatcher and the Prince of Wales.

Part man-of-action, part mystic, he distilled in his work a lifetime's varied experience. He had been an explorer and a soldier, a farmer and a conservationist, a campaigner and a dreamer. But it was as a prophet out of Africa that he won for himself a niche in English life and letters, with his intensely felt and emotionally expressive evocations of that continent's landscape and peoples, and his insistence on the message he believed it to hold in trust for the West.

"I feel myself," he wrote, "to have become a kind of improvised footbridge across the widening chasm between Europe and Africa." As the chasm widened, van der Post came more and more to equate the primitive peoples of the Africa he had known in childhood with those non-rational, instinctive and intuitive aspects of the human psyche whose satisfaction and expression he believed to be vital to the sanity, even the survival, of civilised man.

Dreams were for him the link between the worlds of the primitive and the technological and he liked to describe how, in his boyhood, his habit of dreaming got him into trouble with the sober, Calvinist, Bible-reading Afrikaner family from which he sprang.

Laurens Jan van der Post was born, the thirteenth of 15 children, at Philippolis in the Orange Free State (of whose Volksraad, or state legislature, his father had been chairman) and educated at a country school and then at Grey College, Bloemfontein.

In his late teens he became a journalist on a paper in Durban, eventually becoming its shipping correspondent. After

travels which included a series of journeys with a Norwegian whaling captain, and a trip to the Far East with the novelist William Plomer, he arrived in London. There he struck up the first of his many friendships with famous 20th-century figures, when he made the acquaintance of John Maynard Keynes, the Woolfs, and the other leading lights of Bloomsbury.

Married to a South African, Marjorie Wendt, and with two young children, for a while in the 1930s he combined writing — his novel *In A Province* appeared in 1934 — with dairy farming in Gloucestershire. He was later to describe these years as the unhappiest of his life; both the writing and the farming went well, but he was oppressed by a sense of impending world catastrophe.

Was to mark the beginning of his long journey of self-discovery. Packing his wife and children off to South Africa, he enlisted in the British Army. In 1941 and 1942 he served with the commandos and led guerrilla groups behind enemy lines in Abyssinia and the Dutch East Indies. In 1943 he was captured in Java by the Japanese.

Three years in PoW camps forged in him a philosophy, mystical in character and therefore elusive in words. His toughness and bravery in the face of appalling treatment from his guards is well documented. He later ascribed it to the discovery within himself of "another person" or "other voice".

Although he had no doubt of the rightness of bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he always insisted that he bore no rancour towards the Japanese. In *A Bar of Shadow*, later republished with two companion pieces as *The Sower and the Seed*, a memorable portrait of a brutal yet honourable Japanese sergeant lent weight to what may claim to be a minor classic in the literature of war. In 1983 it was filmed as *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, with the pop star David Bowie in a leading role.

On release he joined Mountbatten's staff as GSO1, took part in quelling disorders in Java and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1947 he was appointed CBE. Regarding himself after the war as a changed man, he set about building a new life. His first marriage was dissolved in 1948, and in 1949 he married Ingaret Giffard, an English actress, novelist, and playwright.



With her support, he resumed what was to become a prolific career as a writer. From an investigation into the economic possibilities of the forests which clothed Mount Mlango in Malawi, van der Post found material for his *Venture to the Interior*, in which the introspective and the romantic were happily blended with a sensitivity to the spirit of place that recalled the early D. H. Lawrence.

Meanwhile he had fallen under the spell of Carl Gustav Jung, in whose doctrines he found a theoretical basis for his empirical beliefs. In *The Dark Eye in Africa*, published in 1954, he developed his theme of the complementary nature of

those elements in the human psyche symbolised by black and white.

The black he equated with the instinctive and pagan aspects, the white with logic, reason and intellectual discipline. In a healthy society, these forces should be balanced as the positive and negative charges of electricity balanced to produce a flow of energy. In our own society, the "white" forces have swelled into an exaggerated materialism and crushed the creative "black" forces of myth, mysticism and imagination.

"Without myth, the life of a people lacks direction and meaning." The great need of our time, he urged, was to recapture our

myths, and in the "miraculously preserved archaic quality of Africa" we should seek them. "The world apprehends that Africa may hold the secret of its own lost and hidden being."

In 1952 he had visited the Kalahari Desert, and he returned there later to make television films. The nomadic Bushmen he saw as almost the last survivors of an ancient Stone Age culture complete with the intuitive, semi-magical powers in which he so ardently believed.

In two resulting books, *The Lost World of the Kalahari* and *The Heart of the Hunter*, his powers of vivid description, sensitivity to atmosphere and human sympathy found full scope. If his life's work had a central creed, it was perhaps that we must "redeem the Bushman in all of us, before it is too late".

Van der Post could write only when his emotions were engaged and the "dark man" within was on the *qui vive*. If everything tended to be a little larger than life, including his own shadow, this for most readers added to the enrichment of life in an age when it is more fashionable to denigrate and diminish than to magnify and praise.

In 1964 he brought out *Journey Into Russia*, and four years later a *Portrait of Japan* which, written without bitterness, sought out beneath the ugliness of Westernisation an ancient beauty and faith. In 1976 *Jung and the Story of Our Time* told of his relationship with the great philosopher-psychiatrist and of the origins and growth of Jung's philosophy. In lighter vein, *First Catch Your Eland* (1977) discoursed on African and other exotic ways of cooking. "Studying grasses and cooking in winter" were listed in *Who's Who* among his recreations.

A charismatic personality and a persuasive speaker, he had a high public profile for an introspective and private man, and he was not afraid to enter political debates. He never forgot his Afrikaner origins, but was an early and outspoken opponent of apartheid, seeking to warn his countrymen of the dangers inherent in their policy, spiritual as well as political, rather than to confront them with demagogic boycotts and abuse.

He was to be equally critical of opposition leaders; he insisted that Desmond Tutu did not deserve the Nobel Peace Prize, and described Nelson Mandela as "a miserable figure who

speaks with a double tongue"; he was a keen supporter of Chief Buthelezi.

Inherently a preacher and a poet, not a politician, he was a romantic whose diagnosis of the spiritual ills of our time may have been prophetic, but whose remedies, in so far as they can be defined, were vague and perhaps impossible to apply. But his wisdom and personal qualities came to be deeply appreciated by a number of people who occupied more active positions on the public stage.

He was a personal friend of Margaret Thatcher during her premiership, and was among those who counselled her to a policy of firmness during the Falklands crisis. He hailed her handling of the invasion as "a brilliant enterprise of war" and dismissed accusations of jingoism as "radical and liberal slush".

The importance of the individual in van der Post's world view, together with his belief that socialism was "a rotting corpse whose smell in our midst has tainted the political atmosphere far too long", undoubtedly endeared him to the Conservative Prime Minister. He was knighted, on her recommendation, in 1981.

But it was perhaps his emphasis on the collective unconscious, and the link it suggested between a monarch and his subjects, that appealed to the heir to the throne. He was a close and valued friend of the Prince of Wales for decades, and his influence on Prince Charles's interest in spiritual matters was widely felt to be profound. In 1982 he acted as godfather to Prince William, a decision viewed with suspicion by some within the Church of England in the light of his advocacy of a generalised notion of faith rather than adherence to any one Faith — a notion apparently since espoused by the Prince of Wales himself. In 1987 van der Post and Prince Charles went on a five-day retreat in the aftermath of Diana, Princess of Wales's *Panorama* broadcast.

Although van der Post never relinquished his links with South Africa, he looked on England as his home for more than 50 years, and in the last decades of his life he lived much of the time between Chelsea and Aldeburgh.

He is survived by his second wife, who became a Jungian therapist, and his daughter from his first marriage. His son and his first wife predeceased him.

## FIELD MARSHAL SIR JAMES CASSELS

Field Marshal Sir James Casseles, GCB, KBE, DSO, Chief of the General Staff, 1965-68, died on December 13 aged 89. He was born on February 28, 1907.

JIM CASSELS was a soldier's general and a Commonwealth soldier's general in particular. As a brigade commander in 1944 he had performed with conspicuous success during the Normandy campaign and in the early months of the following year in the fierce fighting on the frontiers of the Third Reich. But his reputation as a commander rests chiefly on his unique achievement in creating and commanding the Commonwealth Division during the Korean

War. Later he had an important role during the Healey Defence Reviews, when he had overall charge of the withdrawal from Suez and the military problems arising out of Rhodesian UDI. Casseles was well cast as the professional head of the Army. But he was less at home, heading the General Staff in the jungles of Whitehall, especially at a time when the Government was committed to a programme of cuts in the strength of the Armed Forces. He was essentially a battlefield commander rather than a staff officer. His views were based on his operational experience, amassed both at brigade level and while commanding three different divisions.

The outbreak of war in

Archibald James Halkett Casseles was born in Queqta. His father General Sir Robert Casseles was Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India from 1935 to 1941. The young Casseles was a tall, good-looking man with a splendid physique. At Rugby, he was in the Cricket XI for four years, and in the Rugby XV for three. At Sandhurst, he won colours in cricket, rugby, hockey and racquets as well as the Sword of Honour. He was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders in 1926. Casseles's pre-war service was with his battalion in India, apart from two spells as ADC to his father when the latter was C-in-C Northern Command, India, and later C-in-C India.

When, after the Dunkirk evacuation, it was decided to send fresh British troops to France (in what was somewhat optimistically referred to as the "2nd BEF") to help the French hold their new front along the Somme and the Aisne, Casseles went over as brigade major of 157 Infantry Brigade in the 52nd Lowland Division. But, with the situation going from bad to worse as the French front crumbled anew, the brigade was ordered to fight its way back to Cherbourg. From there it and Casseles were lucky enough to be evacuated on June 17, 1940. They thus avoided the melancholy fate of the 51st (Highland) Division which was compelled to lay down its arms at St Valery and passed in entirety into captivity.

Casseles was to make acquaintance with the 51st at the other end of the war when he found himself serving in, and later commanding, the division which had, in the meantime, been completely recreated in Britain. But this all seemed a long way off in 1940. For the next few years Casseles had a number of (for him bountiful) staff and other appointments until he was given command of 152 Infantry Brigade in the 51st Division for the invasion of North-West Europe.

He led it in the drive up the French coast to capture Le Havre and had the supreme satisfaction of avenging the capture of Slat Division four years before, when his brigade liberated St Valery to the cheers of the populace. From then on he participated in the advance into The Netherlands towards the Maas during the vile autumn and winter weather of 1944. Casseles was awarded the DSO and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

After a short rest in January 1945 he was back with his brigade for what was some of the fiercest fighting of the whole campaign as the Germans — astonishingly, given that they were by now totally outnumbered and outgunned and were naked of air cover — fought to defend the Reichswald, behind their own frontier but still west of the Rhine. But German resistance eventually showing signs of having reached its limits, Casseles led his brigade across the river in March 1945. At the end of the war, at the age of only 38, he was appointed GOC of the Highland Division in Germany.

But there was to be only a brief respite from action. In 1946 he was given command of 6th Airborne Division during the disagreeable campaign against Zionist terrorism in Palestine. Casseles was responsible for the southern sector, including Gaza and Tel Aviv. When the King David Hotel in Jerusalem was bombed in July 1946, he mounted the follow-up operation and the area search of Tel Aviv. His men just missed capturing Menachem Begin.

Casseles's next great test was the Korean War. He was leading the UK liaison staff in Australia when it broke out and was given the task of forming the Commonwealth Division out of the British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand troops which had been sent separately to serve with the United Nations Forces, under American command. From these disparate units Casseles created a fine fighting machine and one which was unique, since there has never been another Commonwealth division. He was particularly popular with the Commonwealth troops to whom his informal manner and habit of moving freely around the foxholes and dug-

outs held by his men greatly recommended him. Very few generals have been as close to their soldiers, and very few went further forward with them into battle. He was simply "Jim" to the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. And the tough American 8th Army commander in Korea, General James Van Fleet, himself a footloose type of soldier, approved: "Jim Cassels is a scrapper." Van Fleet personally pinned on Cassels's tunics the US Legion of Merit which expressed the thanks of the American Administration for the vital role the Commonwealth Division had played.

His wide battle experience brought him to the command of 1st British Corps in Germany, 1953-54, and Director General of Military Training, 1954-57, before he took over as Director of Operations in Malaya. After helping to complete the defeat of the terrorists he became the first Chief of Staff of the Federation's Armed Forces in the run-up to Malayan independence in 1959.

After a short spell as C-in-C Eastern Command, he was appointed C-in-C British Army of the Rhine and Com-

mander of Nato's Northern Army Group in 1960. Perhaps the job that he found most congenial was Adjutant General (1963-64), a post in which he could concentrate on improving the conditions of service and quality of life for the Army.

He became Chief of General Staff in 1965 at the beginning of the challenging period of military retrenchment during the first Wilson Government. He had little difficulty defending the Regular Army's order of battle in Denis Healey's Defence Reviews because no one could deny that the Army was grossly over-stretched, but with the Navy losing its fleet aircraft carriers and the Royal Air Force suffering cancellation of the hoped-for revolutionary TSR2 supersonic strike aircraft, he had to accept the less damaging but equally emotional axing of the old Territorial Army and its replacement with the leaner T & AVR (the TA title has since been restored).

The withdrawal from South-East Asia, which followed from the Defence Reviews, presented fewer difficulties because the Borneo campaign was well on the way to being won. But the terrorist campaign in Aden tested his operational judgment to the full, and his advice on the handling of Rhodesian UDI was crucial in avoiding British military action to end Ian Smith's rebellion.

He retired from the Army in 1968, in which year he was promoted field marshal, and indulged his favourite pastimes of fly fishing and shooting in Scotland, laterally moving to Suffolk.

In 1935 he married Joyce, daughter of Brigadier-General Henry Kirk of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. When she died in 1978, he married Joy (Mrs Kenneth Dickson). He is survived by her and by the son of his first marriage.



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# Fowler's four goals send South Croydon wild



UNSURPRISINGLY, the winner of the £250 weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game had Robbie Fowler in his team. Mr P. Mills, of South Croydon, scored 45 points over the week, with Fowler accounting for a third of them.

The long reign of John Hunt as the leading selector in the overall competition is, for the moment at least, over. Mr G. Foster, with his team Sophie And Sam, a Sky entrant, has edged four points clear of Mr Hunt, after being in second place for some weeks.

Mr Mills's team is:

**Goalkeeper**  
P Evans (Leeds)

**Full backs**  
S Bjorneby (Liverpool)  
C Perry (Wimbledon)

**Central defenders**  
S Campbell (Tottenham)  
F Leboeuf (Chelsea)

**Midfield players**  
R Earle (Wimbledon)  
P McGinlay (Hibernian)  
A Smith (Dunfermline)  
D Windass (Aberdeen)

**Strikers**  
R Fowler (Liverpool)  
A McCoist (Rangers)

**Manager**  
R Aitken (Aberdeen)

If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve



Fowler shoots for his first goal against Middlesbrough. His four goals meant that his ITF total increased by 15 points



your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which

allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League Premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01522 488 122.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal
Scored goal	1pt	All players
Save a penalty		Appearance
Full back/Central defender		Scorekeeper hat-trick
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager
Scored goal	3pts	Team wins
Middlefield player	1pt	Team draws
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts	
Scored goal		

## POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal		Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal		Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

T. Wright (Nottingham Forest) to Chester, two weeks; R van der Laan (Derry) to Walsall, three weeks; R Ferdinand (West Ham) to Bournemouth, three weeks; G Pearce (Chelsea) to Queens Park Rangers, one week; M Stein (Chester to Stoke, one week); D Kanstola (Nottingham to Swindon, one week); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, one week); P. Jones (Birmingham) to Coventry, one week; J. Sosley (Anfield to Southampton, three weeks); P Simpson (Derby to Sheffield United, three weeks); M Jackson (Everton to Birmingham, three weeks); M Bright (Sheffield Wednesday to Middlesbrough, four weeks)

Lawn periods subject to deduction

## THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

	IN	OUT	LOANED PLAYERS
21504....	Gunner Helle	Leeds United	£1.00m
31702....	John Scales (from Liverpool)	Tottenham Hotspur	£3.50m
21704....	Phil Charnock (Preston) are	Liverpool	£0.25m
42901....		West Ham United	£2.50m

T. Wright (Nottingham Forest) to Chester, two weeks; R van der Laan (Derry) to Walsall, three weeks; R Ferdinand (West Ham) to Bournemouth, three weeks; G Pearce (Chelsea) to Queens Park Rangers, one week; M Stein (Chester to Stoke, one week); D Kanstola (Nottingham to Swindon, one week); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, one week); P. Jones (Birmingham) to Coventry, one week; J. Sosley (Anfield to Southampton, three weeks); P Simpson (Derby to Sheffield United, three weeks); M Jackson (Everton to Birmingham, three weeks); M Bright (Sheffield Wednesday to Middlesbrough, four weeks)

Lawn periods subject to deduction

## THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES' INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam (G Foster)	343	
2	John Hunt Taunton D (J Hunt)	339	
3	John Hunt Taunton H (J Hunt)	334	
4	John Hunt Taunton F (J Hunt)	327	
5	Nobby 33 (J Brown)	327	
6	Nobby 4 (J Brown)	321	
7	Inter The Stand (M Ward)	317	
8	Brain's Team (B Howes)	316	
9	John Hunt Taunton E (J Hunt)	315	
10	John Hunt Taunton E (A Ward)	314	
11	Degrees (V Cox)	314	
12	Tutti's Tops (D Tufts)	311	
13	Noah's Ark (G P Dolan)	311	
14	Rej Is Back To Kill (R Gohil)	311	
15	Purple Rain (B Gohil)	309	
16	Jones Boys Three (M Jones)	307	
17	John Hunt Taunton G (J Hunt)	306	
18	Inter The Pub (M Ward)	305	
19	John Hunt Taunton C (J Hunt)	305	
20	Rej Is Back To Kill (R Gohil)	304	
21	NST Monkstone (J Staszewicz)	304	
22	Skyforest (A Burton)	304	
23	Hull Red Devils (G Foster)	303	
24	Riggy's Roarers (A Rigg)	302	
25	Team A (A Lone)	298	
26	Stoners (P Mills)	297	
27	It's About Revenge C (P Gohil)	295	
28	Stoners For Good (P Gohil)	295	
29	Jones Boys Eight (M Jones)	295	
30	Jones Boys One (M Jones)	294	
31	Rej Is Back To Kill (R Gohil)	294	
32	Rej Is Back To Kill (R Gohil)	294	
33	Bob's Boys 2 (R Calder)	294	
34	Nobby 29 (J Brown)	294	
35	Subtwin Utd 5 (M Larcombe)	293	
36	Nonchalant AFC 3 (R J Ward)	292	
37	South's Boys XI (P Brown)	292	
38	Nobby 32 (J Brown)	292	
39	Nobby 11 (J Brown)	292	
40	Alan's Waller (M Ward)	291	
41	Cooly Boys (P Crook)	291	
42	PJ Thistle (P Newbold)	291	
43	Nobby 28 (J Brown)	291	
44	Team C (A Lone)	290	
45	Beezotz Celtic (B McGivern)	290	
46	Xpat Missiles (M Jackson)	290	
47	Mars FC (M Barber)	290	
48	Nobby 5 (J Brown)	290	
49	JS August Monthly 1 (J Swirles)	289	
50	It's Bowlers (J Swirles)	289	
51	Rej Is Back To Kill (R Gohil)	289	
52	Edmo Utd (D Edmondson)	289	
53	A2 (K Farrah)	289	
54	Mark's Magicians II (M Kingston)	288	
55	Brainbowns United (G Weiss)	288	
56	Abe (M Barber)	288	
57	Icarus (B Wells)	287	
58	Garkith Seahawks (I Dougherty)	287	
59	Leyton's Lions 7 (R Layton)	287	
60	Bad Time Boys (R Crook)	286	
61	Crifield Classics (R Crook)	286	
62	12 Angry Men (D Cook)	286	
63	Kingsmen (N Brown)	286	
64	Bonky Boys (R Crook)	285	
65	JS August Monthly 2 (J Swirles)	285	
66	Mean Machine (P Ford)	285	
67	Clive From Down Under (K James)	285	
68	Sky Rockets (K Farrah)	285	
69	AB 4 (A Boyland)	285	
70	Pin Ups Two (P Turner)	284	
71	China Castle (B Gold)	284	
72	Def Con 3 (M Peck)	91	
73	Yesterdays (I Longstaff)	91	
74	Rej Is Back To Kill (C Vavas)	91	
75	The Dusters (P Fawcett)	91	
76	Fordey's Seconds (C Forde)	91	
77	Nobby 34 (J Brown)	91	
78	Nobby 21 (J Brown)	91	
79	Alright (P Pyte)	91	
80	Uni Boys Utd 1 (G Palmer)	102	
81	Concrete Basins (S Mingle)	102	
82	Fortune Hunters (K Ferrell)	102	
83	John Hunt Taunton B (J Hunt)	102	
84	Inter The Stand (J Hunt)	105	
85	The Great Dame (P Boot)	106	
86	FC Parts (J Mullock)	106	
87	Soccer Superstars (J McCallion)	106	
88	Hairy May (M Pearson)	106	
89	Afc (M Baker)	106	
90	Rother Ramblers (M Everard)	111	

## FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF check-in on

0891 884 643

Outside UK: 44 990 100 943

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Triple Top Ten (P Bailey)	273	
111	D Anderson (T Basaran)	273	
111	Inter The Net (M Ward)	273	
111	1970 Jr FC (J Ross)	273	
117	Jabberwocky (P Amos)	272	
117	T 20 (T Basaran)	272	
117	Shrew Moles (H Brasier)	272	
117	Pacific All Star (T Leonard)	272	
117	James Boys Sky (M Corless)	272	
117	Fenton United (E Cowen)	272	
123	Graham's Gringos (G Fawcett)	272	
123	Caroline B (A Luckhurst)	272	
123	Aldo Is Great (J Holliday)	272	
123	Midfield Magic (J Pregrin)	272	
12			

## The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	Wk	Or
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+4	+2
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+27
10202	V Bertam	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	-14
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+1
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-19
10402	S Gilver	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-1
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0	0
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-23
10603	F Grodias	Chelsea	3.00	0	-23
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
10702	J Flan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-10
10902	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	0	-10
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	-14
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-14
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-88
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-9
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	0	-10
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-7
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5	-20
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+8
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-5
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-5
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	+11
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	-16
11802	R van der Gouw	Middlesbrough	1.50	-9	-1
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-9	-19
12001	S Howes	Motherwell	1.50	0	-23
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3
12102	P Smalek	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+5
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5	-23
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+5	-9
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+2	+17
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+5	-1
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-16
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	0	-19
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+5	-6
12801	A Coton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	+16
12802	E Baardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
12901	L Milkosko	West Ham United	2.00	0	-16
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	+5	+12
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0



Kelly, the Sunderland No 16, performs acrobatics during the match against Chelsea. But it will not boost his ITF rating

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	Wk	Or
20101	S McKinnie	Aberdeen	2.00	-4	+11
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+0	+20
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+0	+17
20203	S Morow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+4
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+0	+24
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+0	+28
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	-1
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+0	+24
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-3
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+1
20403	J Kenny	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-4
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McMullan	Celtic	3.00	0	+7
20502	T McMullan	Celtic	3.00	0	+2
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	+5	-5
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	-3	-2
20603	I Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	-2	+1
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	-2	+1
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-7	-1
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-5	-5
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	-5	+4
20705	R Geniau	Coventry City	1.50	-5	-2
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	-2	-1
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	-2	-1
20803	P Parker	Dundee United	1.00	-1	-1
20804	M Malipas	Dundee United	1.00	+3	+15
20805	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	+1	+5
20806	N Dally	Dundee United	0.50	+1	+5
20807	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	-5	-6
20808	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	-9	-9
21001	N Hetherington	Everton	2.50	0	0
21101	E Barnett	Everton	1.50	-8	-19
21102	M Jackson	Everton	1.00	0	0
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	0
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	-2	-6
21203	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-4	+2
21204	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	-12	-10
21205	G MacPherson	Hibernian	0.50	-4	-10
21206	K Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+17
21207	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0	-1
21208	P Beasley	Leeds United	0.50	+3	+13
21209	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	+8	-2
21210	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	+8	-2
21211	N Lewis	Leicester City	0.50	-2	-2
21212	F Roffey	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
21213	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
21214	S Hardness	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
21215	S Bjornoffe	Liverpool	0.50	+3	+25
21216	P Charnock	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
21217	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	+0	+12
21218	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+9
21219	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-2	-1
21220	R Elliott	Manchester United	2.50	+4	+9
21221	J Beresford	Manchester United	2.50	-4	-11
21222	S Pearce	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+2
21223	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+4	-4
22204	A I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+4	+4
22205	N Jerkin	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-8
22206	P Bonar	Raih Rovers	0.50	0	5
22207	D Kirwood	Raih Rovers	2.50	-1	+6
22208	F Benali	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22209	S Charlton	Rangers	0.75	0	0
22210	D Kubilic	Rangers	0.50	+4	+13
22211	M Scott	Rangers	0.50	+4	+4
22212	G Hall	Rangers	0.25	+4	+3
22201	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+4	+23
22202	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+23
22203	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22204	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+4
22205	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+4
22206	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
22207	M Bowen	West Ham United	0.50	0	+2
22208	K Brown	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
22209	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	-9	-8
22210	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+8
22211	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
22212	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	+4	+21
22213	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0
23001	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	+4	+12
23002	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
23003	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	+0	+16
23004	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	+	

# THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

## NEWS

### Beef ban remains despite cull

■ Europe told Britain that the world ban on British beef would remain in force indefinitely, in spite of the decision to slaughter 100,000 cattle most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government was going ahead with the £150 million cull — first mooted in July and then suspended in September — because it was the only way to make any progress on lifting the ban ..... Page 1

### Williams chiefs face trial over Senna

■ Frank Williams, head of the Formula One Williams team, is to be tried for the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian world champion, who was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix two and a half years ago. Prosecutors in Bologna announced the charges against Mr Williams, the technical director, and the chief designer ..... Page 1

### Amis returns

Martin Amis has fallen out with the publishing house that offered him a £500,000 contract and has signed a four-book deal with his original publisher ..... Page 1

### New smoking risk

One in seven of all childhood cancers may be caused by fathers who smoke. The more a man smokes, the greater the risk becomes ..... Page 1

### Education waste

Millions of pounds are being wasted and tens of thousands of parents denied their first choice of school because of the inefficiencies in the allocation of school places ..... Page 2

### Wembley winner

The Sports Council will announce today that London has won the greatest lottery prize of all, the £180 million project for a new national football and athletics stadium at Wembley ..... Page 3

### Hospital blunder

A pregnant woman who was admitted to hospital suffering stomach cramps was given a drug designed for men suffering prostate problems ..... Page 3

### Freemason concern

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence to MPs on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary ..... Page 4

### Aga Khan's daughter to marry farmer

■ Princess Zahra, the only daughter of the Aga Khan, has become engaged to a farmer's son from Dorset, Mark Boyden, 35, a management consultant who is also involved with his parents' farm business, met the princess through friends in France. The Aga Khan announced the engagement through his secretariat in Aiglemont, near Chantilly ..... Page 1



Richard Branson with Per Lindstrand (left) and Rory McCarthy in Morocco announcing their plan to make a balloon flight round the world

### Military burial

The remains of 27 British soldiers killed in the First World War and discovered recently in northern France are to be reburied there ..... Page 5

### Bird under threat

One of Britain's rarest birds of prey, the hen harrier, is being illegally slaughtered by gamekeepers on Scottish grouse moors, scientists said ..... Page 6

### Gun law attacked

Michael Howard's chief adviser on gun laws made an outspoken attack on the Home Secretary's Bill for a partial handgun ban ..... Page 8

### Kennedy anger

A brawl in a New York street suggests that John Kennedy Jr., son of the late President, has reached breaking point with the paparazzi who follow his every move ..... Page 9

### Iraq damages claim

A United Nations commission is recommending that Kuwait should receive \$610 million (£370 million) in damages for the inferno started by Iraq at the end of the Gulf War ..... Page 10

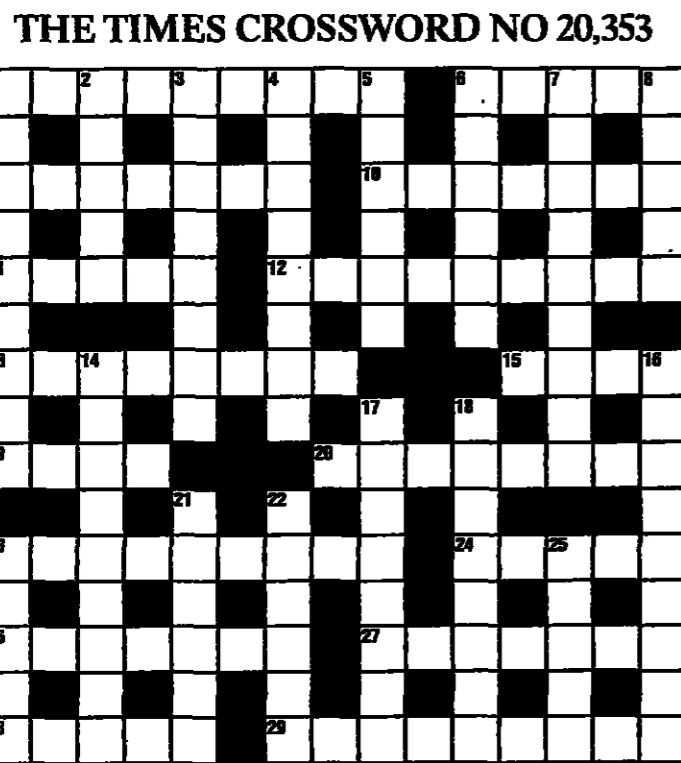
### Papua victims

One of the world's least-reported conflicts resurfaced with the publication of photographs showing the bodies of nine people allegedly killed by Papuan New Guinea soldiers ..... Page 11

### Car reports by fax

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence to MPs on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary ..... Page 4

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,353**



**ACROSS**  
1 Archbishop is backing bishop, perhaps, as a sort of line-manager (9).  
6 Put on speed within the law (5).  
9 A proposition not wholly accepted as opposite? (7).  
10 Establish record when losing at tennis? (3,4).  
11 Employer enrolling Henry as escort (5).  
12 Carefully protect telephone receiver (4-5).  
13 The beginnings of a hobby might be found in his collection (8).  
15 Difficult not to start squabble (4).  
19 Vessel's course returning to lake (4).  
20 Youth brewed green tea (8).  
23 Subdues when caught, having indulged in speeding (9).  
24 Put back lush plant elsewhere (5).  
26 Our confidant in retirement? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,352

**MIMICRY FEARFUL**  
E A A A G M L I  
RACER WOBBEGONE  
C H N N E N R S  
ICECAP OFFDRIVE  
L T T E O D  
E L E M I FIREBRANDS  
S O F A R E  
SCOUNDREL ATLAS  
C O L I P P  
DEADLINE ENABLE  
E R E T B W E R  
PRIVATEER ATRIA  
T N D R S A D  
HEARSAY OTHELLO

Times Two Crossword, page 40

**Basix: The drinks and hotels group sold 61 Holiday Inn hotels to the Bristol Hotel group in America** ..... Page 21

**Cash blow: Thousands of Lloyds TSB Bank customers had their Christmas shopping plans thwarted by a massive computer failure which meant that all 2,400 cash-point machines were out of action for several hours** ..... Page 21

**House prices: Rises of 10 per cent are expected next year and again in 1998 by UBS, the Swiss banking group. They would be the first double-figure gains since 1989. Page 21**

**Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 21.4 to 3993.8. Sterling rose from \$9.32 to 93.7 after a rise from \$1.6580 to \$1.6615 and from DM2.5611 to DM2.5811** ..... Page 24

**Cricket: Ronnie Irani was taken to hospital for X-rays on his lower back. England may now be choosing from only 13 players for the first Test against Zimbabwe** ..... Page 40

**Football: Blackburn confirmed that the Swede, Sven-Goran Eriksson, will become their new manager when his contract with Sampdoria expires** ..... Page 40

**Sailing: Lawrie Smith is to lead an all-British team in the Whitbread round-the-world race. Smith is replaced in the Swedish EF Education boat by the American, Paul Cayard** ..... Page 40

**Rugby union: Doubt surrounds the future of Brian Ashton, the chief coach at Bath, as they prepare to start their defence of the Pilkington Cup** ..... Page 36

**Works of art: Richard Long's topographical show inaugurates Exeter's refurbished Space Gallery; while at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Phillip King reveals his latest work** ..... Page 29

**One of a kind: Shane MacGowan brings his own unique brand of festive spirit to the Astoria in London, in a gig with the Popes** ..... Page 30

**La bound: Clare Bayley, who won The Times Screenwriting Competition earlier this year, travels to Hollywood to pitch her winning screenplay** ..... Page 31

**Christmas show: Vivian Ellis's musical Listen to the Wind has been dusted down and lovingly resurrected by Dan Crawford in north London** ..... Page 31

### IN THE TIMES

#### ■ INTERFACE

In our weekly technology supplement: what billionaire Bill Gates wants from Santa this Christmas

#### ■ ARTS

Jessica Lange talks to Matt Wolf about making her West End debut

**DJ legend: John Peel, a Radio 1 institution and Sixties survivor, admits he has never worn a tartan suit or carried a guitar** ..... Page 12

**Celebrity switch: Now that Sylvester Stallone may move to London, perhaps we can offend some of our "stars". Would America consider taking Chris Evans, Antenna Turner and Tamara Beckwith? — Page 12**

**Changing society: People need to be taught a code by which to live, write, Frances Lawrence, announcing her plan for an alliance dedicated to working with the young and responding to social needs** ..... Page 13

**Rolling on: Why British entrepreneurs are on a roll with board games this Christmas** ..... Page 28

**Charities: Is the legislation that restricts the actions of charities in the political forum lessening their fund-raising potential?** ..... Page 33

**The crisis in Zaire underlines the uncertainties, the ambiguities and the ambitions of America's African policy. Having mistakenly considered itself capable of elaborating a diplomatic strategy in the region, Washington is now trying to imagine how things might backfire** ..... Le Monde

**Risk assessment: rules of royal succession; compensation for British PoWs of the Japanese; handgun legislation; preserving the South Downs** ..... Page 15

**STAFFING**  
Preview: Money talks at London's top shop. Network First: Conspicuous Consumption (ITV, 10.40pm). Review: Lynne Truss on two men in search of Nash ..... Page 39

**REVIEW**

**Stormy waters**  
Whenever an election might be called, the scale of Conservative dissent with the Government's "wait and see" line will become embarrassingly apparent ..... Page 15

**Head to head**

If Airbus cares to look at the way in which Boeing adapted to the challenge from Europe, its executives will see that they now have no grounds for either hesitation or complacency ..... Page 15

**A joke and a jar a day**

Not only are alcohol and jokes now officially good for us. Scientific surveys are good for us too ..... Page 15

**ANATOLE KALETSKY**

France won a decisive victory over Germany in the monetary battle of Dublin. As a result, it is now almost certain that the euro will be a relatively soft currency, managed more in the style of the French franc and Italian lire than the present-day German mark ..... Page 14

**LIBBY PURVES**

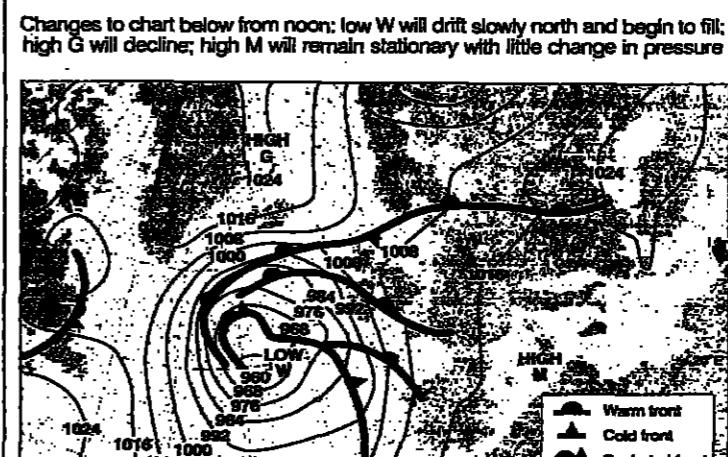
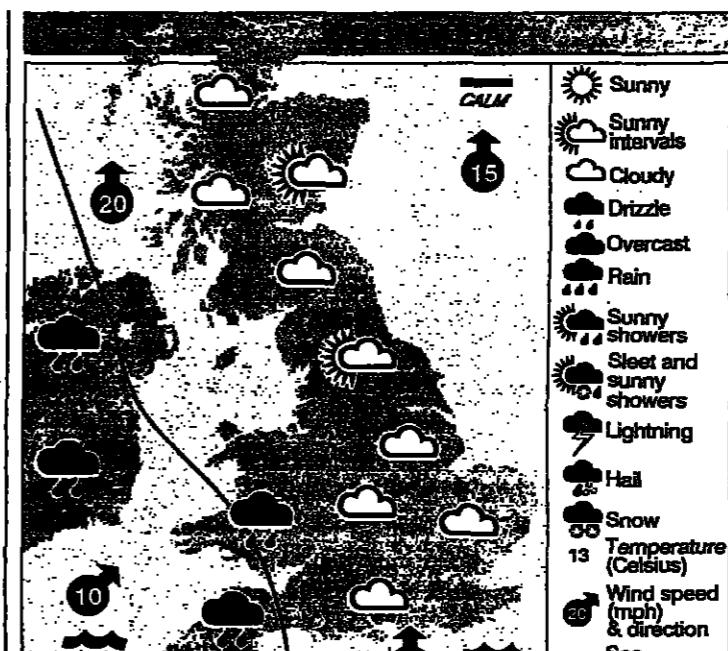
Shopaholism researchers found classic patterns of fevered anticipation and climax followed by self-disgust and secrecy. Add the Duchess of York's autobiography and you have a syndrome ..... Page 14

**JONATHAN MIRSKY**

Military etiquette must have been strained among American military officers at the National Defense University when General Chi Haotian, China's Defence Minister, solemnly pronounced: "I can tell you in a responsible and serious manner that at that time not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square" ..... Page 14

**Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer; Field Marshal Sir James Cossiers, former Chief of the General Staff** ..... Page 17

**Risk assessment: rules of royal succession; compensation for British PoWs of the Japanese; handgun legislation; preserving the South Downs** ..... Page 15



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# THE TIMES



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## ARTS

How our film script  
contest winner got  
on in Hollywood  
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## LAW

Why the police may  
be able to enter  
private premises  
PAGE 33



## SPORT

Austrians make  
giant impression  
in Val d'Isère  
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TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

## FT-SE blow to Halifax shareholders

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

MILLIONS of Halifax Building Society members could see the value of their new shares drop after conversion next June if a proposal to delay its entry into the Stock Exchange indices goes ahead.

With an estimated market value of £10 billion, the Halifax is equivalent to more than 1 per cent of market value of the FT-SE 100 index and would normally qualify for fast entry into the index.

Fast entry was devised by a committee of actuaries in the 1980s to get the large privatised

shares stocks such as British Telecom and British Gas included in the main stock market indices as quickly as possible after flotation.

However, unlike the privatisations, the Halifax conversion will offer shares only to its 9 million members. No shares are to be placed with the big institutional investors.

The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which reviews the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE All-Share indices, believes the lack of an institutional placing could distort the market and is considering a delay of up to three weeks before the Halifax joins the FT-SE 100.

Steven Vale, secretary to the FT-SE Actuaries Committee, said: "There will be no distribution to institutions."

"If we put it in on the first day institutions would not be able to get their hands on the stock which will cause a distortion in the market if the stock gets an artificially high price."

The whole point of the indices are that they are supposed to be a realistic measurement of how fund managers perform.

Peter Butler of the pension fund manager Hermes said: "Institutions would need time to build up their usual 60 per cent combined stake in stocks."

Stephen Tanner, of the Institutional Fund Managers Association, said: "It seems an odd idea. We all know it's going into the index; it's all a matter of when. In practice the share price should benefit before it goes into the index."

Mr Vale said the committee would welcome comments from Halifax members.

Pennington, page 23

## House prices tipped to rise 10%

By SARA MCCONNELL  
AND RACHEL KELLY

HOUSE prices are set to rise 10 per cent next year and a further 10 per cent in 1998, UBS, the banking group, predicts. This would push price gains into double figures for the first time since 1989.

Publishing his latest housing market report, Rob Thomas, UBS housing analyst, declared: "The gloom of the 1990s housing recession has finally been shaken off."

Rising prices will release more people from the negative equity trap, which will in turn bring more homes into the market, Mr Thomas said. UBS estimates that the number of people with mortgages worth more than the value of their homes will fall from 500,000 at the end of 1996 to 90,000 by the end of 1997.

Mr Thomas predicts that turnover of properties will rise to 1.4 million in 1997 and 1.6 million in 1998. He played down fears that a housing recovery could escalate into a 1980s-style speculative boom. "With housing seriously undervalued by any historical comparison the market's new-found confidence will fuel a rapid catching up period. There is a danger that this... will rekindle speculative buying... but in the absence of a seriously overheating economy we give this scenario a low probability."

He believes mortgage rate rises will be small peaking at an annual average of 3.3 per cent in 1998. The Cheltenham & Gloucester, the fourth largest mortgage lender, has raised its standard variable rate from 6.85 per cent to 6.94 per cent, with effect from January 1.

## RBS executive nets £2m bonus

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

LAWRENCE FISH, the chairman of Royal Bank of Scotland's US subsidiary, Citizens Financial Group, has netted £2 million in bonuses since its merger with First NH Bank in April.

According to RBS's annual report, published yesterday, the payment to Mr Fish doubled the amount paid in bonuses to eight executive directors to £2.4 million in 1996.

In addition to a £422,000 basic salary, Mr Fish, 52, was paid £100,000 in benefits, bringing his total package to £2.57 million. This was more than £1 million in excess of last year's payments, when Mr Fish, on £1.54 million, was also the highest-paid executive in RBS.

RBS headhunted Mr Fish to run Citizens three years ago.

His remuneration dwarfs that of Lord Younger of Prestwick,

chairman of RBS, who received £225,000 this year. George Mathewson, chief executive, received a £121,000 bonus, lifting his total remuneration to £57,000, from £45,000 in the previous year.

RBS said that Mr Fish's remuneration was in line with comparable executives in America and was well deserved because Citizens' profits, after provisions, had risen by 57 per cent, to £168 million, this year after the merger deal with First NH Bank.

In the year to September 30, RBS increased pre-tax profits to £695 million, from £602 million. There was a net exceptional profit of £51 million, made up of a £72 million profit on a German disposal, partly offset by restructuring costs of £21 million relating to the merger of Citizens and First NH Bank.

Although even Mr Tabor's camp admit this move has little chance of success as Mr Brown claims backing from holders of

90 per cent of West Ham's shares, it is a first attempt by him to take control of West Ham, whose unquoted shares have a market value of about £25 million.

Mr Montlake has written to shareholders saying that Mr Tabor, a lifelong West Ham fan, is willing to put up money for rebuilding the club's ground at Upton Park and buying new players.

The letter says Mr Tabor has funds available immediately. In the past he has shown no shortage of wealth, being a leading racehorse owner, boasting Thunder Gulch, the 1995 Kentucky Derby winner and the most expensive yearling in Britain at 880,000 guineas in his stable.

A lifetime ban imposed on him in 1970 by the Jockey Club for allegedly fixing races was overturned three years later.

## Tabor leads coup at West Ham

By JASON NISSE

A FORMER bookmaker and racehorse owner, who had a lifetime ban from the Jockey Club overturned on appeal in 1973, will today launch an attempt to oust the chairman of West Ham United and take control of the troubled football club.

Representatives of Michael Tabor, who sold his Arthur Prince bookmaking business to Coral for £30 million last year and now lives in tax exile in Monaco, will stand up at today's annual meeting of the club and propose that shareholders reject the re-election of Terrence Brown, the club's chairman. They will propose that Henry Montlake, an Essex lawyer representing Mr Tabor, is elected instead.

The letter says Mr Tabor has funds available immediately. In the past he has shown no shortage of wealth, being a leading racehorse owner, boasting Thunder Gulch, the 1995 Kentucky Derby winner and the most expensive yearling in Britain at 880,000 guineas in his stable.

A lifetime ban imposed on him in 1970 by the Jockey Club for allegedly fixing races was overturned three years later.

## Power failure halts Lloyds cashpoints

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THOUSANDS of Lloyds TSB Bank customers had their Christmas shopping plans thwarted yesterday by a massive computer failure that meant that all its 2,400 cashpoint machines were out of action for several hours.

The problem was caused by power failure at the bank's central computer in Peterborough. The chaos follows an initiative by the banks to try to integrate the various cash machine networks.

Customers were not only unable to get cash, but were also unable to get information about balances in their accounts. The bank said that it had deployed all

possible resources on trying to sort out the problem, but, by early evening, it had still not managed to get the computer working.

Ironically, the problem affected only the seven million customers with Lloyds. The seven million former TSB customers who became Lloyds customers when TSB was taken over last year were able to use their cash cards. The failure of the system, which is on the Four Banks' computer network, is bound to annoy many shoppers in a year in which record levels of spending are forecast.

Link, the biggest cash machine network in the UK, experienced

record cash withdrawals in the first week of December. It claims that withdrawals are up by 30 per cent on last year, with an extra £50 million withdrawn in the first week of December. John Hardy, Link chief executive, said: "We have seen a dramatic increase in both cash withdrawals and transactions. It looks as if people are feeling the Christmas spirit earlier than they did last year."

British's retailers expect this Christmas to be a bumper one for spending. A recent survey forecast spending of £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink — £700 million up on last year.



Plans are afoot to integrate cashpoint networks

Shahid Ali

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State 'puts too little in building projects'

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is cutting building investment to "dangerous levels", limiting economic recovery in construction, the UK's building materials industry said yesterday.

Although the industry forecast a rise in its total output this year and next, it said that any increase would markedly lag the overall growth in output in the economy, largely because of falling public-sector investment.

In its latest economic analysis, the National Council of Building Material Producers says that the industry is now finally poised to emerge from the recession of the early 1990s. Forecasting a total output rise of just 0.5 per cent for 1996, the council said that this was expected to be followed by faster growth next year, with new work expected to show an overall increase of 2.5 per cent in 1997. However, such growth figures masked a sharp difference between public-sector and private-sector work, it said.

Robert Napier, council president, said: "Unfortunately, this improvement is solely due to increased private-sector investment."

#### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	18.09	17.58
Bahrain D	5.07	5.13
Canada \$	2.385	2.208
Cyprus Cyp	0.809	0.754
Denmark Kr	10.42	10.25
Finland F	9.25	7.61
France Fr	9.09	8.44
Germany Dm	2.73	2.52
Greece Dr	2.25	2.05
Hong Kong \$	12.46	12.46
Iceland Kr	1.05	0.97
Ireland P	1.05	1.01
Italy Lira	2,943	2,498
Japan Yen	102.88	106.80
Malta M	0.840	0.585
Netherlands Gld	3.025	2.005
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.30	10.50
Portugal Esc	27.00	25.50
S. Africa Rand	8.41	7.81
Spain Pts	224.00	211.00
Sweden Kr	11.94	11.14
Turkey Lira	22.45	21.25
Turkey Lira	189,450	189,450
USA \$	1.758	1.658

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

# Boeing bid for McDonnell Douglas set for clearance

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

of the Pentagon, which has urged the US defence industry to consolidate since the end of the Cold War.

Paul Sikorski, the Pentagon Under Secretary for Procurement, said that on antitrust issues "nothing is really important comes to mind" apart from the rocket-related business of the combined group. Pentagon officials see the merger as providing a useful counterweight to Lockheed Martin, the defence group created last year from the merger of two large defence companies.

Unlike many similar mergers, the Boeing deal is unlikely to lead to massive cost-cutting and layoffs. The company says it will make savings of \$1 billion from the merger, but analysts say there is little

room for any more savings. The deal was enthusiastically received on Wall Street, where Boeing shares rose 5.25 cents to \$102 and McDonnell Douglas shares rose more than 10 cents to \$62.50.

The merger leaves few big independent defence companies in America, although General Motors is looking for a buyer for its Hughes Electronics division, which is worth around \$12 billion.

The unit was put up for sale last week, hastening the deal between Boeing and McDonnell.

Phil Condit, chief executive of Boeing, feared McDonnell would buy Hughes, which would have made it too expensive for Boeing to purchase. To pre-empt this, Mr Condit reopened long running negotiations with McDonnell last Tuesday and hampered out the merger deal in one hour with Harry Stonecipher, McDonnell's chief executive.

The competition to buy Hughes now lies between Northrop Grumman and Raytheon, two leading electronics groups.

## Retail fund managers 'woolly on investment'

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

RETAIL pension fund managers have woolly investment objectives, charge high management fees and regularly underperform their institutional rivals, a new survey has claimed. Their asset allocation and stock selection is underdeveloped and managers are vague about objectives.

The research by Bacon & Woodrow, the firm of actuaries, into the unit-linked personal pension market claims that institutional managed funds have outperformed retail funds by 1.8 per cent per annum over the past five years. Bacon & Woodrow says that many of the well-known funds at the top of performance league tables failed to meet its strict investment criteria, and were not included in the survey. However, Standard Life and Norwich Union again scored highly.

Only 39 out of 308 funds were included. Among those returning the best performances over five years were Skandia/Perpetual High Income, Templeton Global Managed 1 and Skandia/Morgan Grenfell Managed.

Andrew Warwick-Thompson, son of Bacon & Woodrow, said that independent financial advisers and personal pension holders needed to ask "tough questions" about managers' investment objectives.



PRE-TAX profits at Hunters Armley Group, the commercial printer, fell to £1.8 million from £4.1 million in the year ended September 30. The company said profitability was adversely affected by the volatile paper supply market in the first half. Volatile prices gave rise to an exceptional stock provision of £1.5 million.

Earnings fell to 4.65p a share from 10.5p. The total

dividend is held at 4.5p a share, with an unchanged 3p final. Pictured (left to right) are Brian Sudgen, managing director; Neil Pigott, sales director; and Andrew Fletcher, finance director.

## Kenwood shareholders reject sale

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KENWOOD shareholders gave their overwhelming backing to the board yesterday, voting against a resolution proposed by rebel investors that the domestic appliances company be put up for sale.

The resolution was defeated by a show of hands at an extraordinary meeting held in London. Out of the 61 per cent of shareholders who voted by proxy, 82 per cent indicated against the resolution.

The UK Active Value fund, which proposed the resolution, holds 9 per cent of Kenwood. David Cooley, an adviser to Active Value, told

the meeting that the fund believed Kenwood's Italian air conditioning business should be sold, and said it saw scope for further management changes at Kenwood. He also called for the company to meet Fifco, which has shown an interest in bidding. However, he conceded that David Nash, Kenwood's new chairman,

should now be given some months to make changes.

Mr Nash said: "Where serious and credible proposals are put forward, which may result in an offer for the company, the board will consider them if they provide the prospect of enhancing shareholder value."

Pemberton, page 23

## Dublin deal boosts shares

EUROPEAN stocks and bonds scored healthy gains in reaction to the Dublin deal on a stability pact to enforce budgetary discipline after the single currency is formed. But the market suffered from perceptions that the deal was a compromise that will not ensure a strong euro. The pound jumped nearly two pence

and ended higher on its effective index against a basket of currencies at 93.7, up from 93.2 on Friday. The FTSE 100 index finished 2.14 points up at 3,993.8, helped by a firm Wall Street. But trading was cautious as markets waited for today's meeting of the Federal Open Markets Committee to discuss US interest rates.

## Pensions providers

MORE than six out of ten private sector employees in Britain are members of some form of pension scheme that their employer had arranged or contributes to, according to a new Department of Social Security study. The survey found that just over half (55 per cent) of organisations made some form of pension provision for at least some of their employees. Large organisations were more likely to make provision than smaller ones.

## Winchester loss deepens

LOSSES at Winchester Multimedia Group increased to £53,000 before tax from £184,000 in the half-year to September 30. The results were affected by the decision to write down the value of its interest in Rainbow, the feature film, by £48,000. The financing of another four films is under negotiation, which would take the catalogue to nine, with total budgets of about £18 million. Losses were 4.8p a share (2p loss). Again there is no dividend.

## Meggit wins orders

MEGGIT, the defence electronics company, has won two orders worth more than £10 million. The Ministry of Defence has awarded a three-year contract for the supply of subsonic aerial targets for Meggit's Banshee system. First deliveries are expected in the second half of 1997. The company has also been awarded a contract to supply the Romanian Ministry of Defence during 1997 with Banshee targets, electronic scoring systems, reeling machines and towed targets.

## Prior pays same again

PRIOR, the property company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 2p after reporting pre-tax profits of £38,000 (£367,000) for the six months to September 30. Earnings were 3.57p a share (4.86p). The company has undergone management changes and a change of strategy, withdrawing from joint ventures and disposing of its retail property in Portsmouth. The company said the value of commercial property was beginning to improve in some areas.

## Mr Men go to America

THE Mr Men characters are to make their American TV debut next year in a deal that may be worth more than £1 million to Copyright Promotions, the character licensing agent. Copyright, which has exclusive worldwide licensing and marketing rights to Mr Men, said that Sunburst Media, a US programmer, is to sell 40 half-hour animated Mr Men episodes to stations across the country. The sale of Mr Men products, including clothing and toys, will accompany the TV series.

## Crest repeats interim

CREST PACKAGING, the cartons and flexible packaging company, is holding the interim dividend at 1.375p despite reporting an increase in pre-tax profits to £2.2 million, from £1.4 million, in the 26 weeks to October 26. Turnover rose to £24.7 million, from £22.7 million. Ian Tegner, chairman, said that competitive pressures continued to affect both divisions but order levels were high and capacity was in place to meet demand. Earnings improved to 4p a share, from 2.7p.

# Northern Electric Shareholders

# 650p CASH

**CE Electric's final\* offer deadline is 1.00pm on Friday 20th December.**

Because of Christmas post delays, we suggest that if you are posting your forms of acceptance you do so at least 3-4 days before the close of the final offer.

If you have any questions about completing the forms call

**0117 975 1595**



CE Electric UK plc

\*The Final Offer will be increased and will be completed before 1.00pm on Friday 20 December 1996, unless the Final Ordinary Offer has by then been closed or been declared void or suspended. However, CE Electric reserves the right to waive certain or otherwise waive the Final Offer or either of them with the consent of the Panel or in the event of a compromise offer as determined by the Panel agent.

The directors of CE Electric UK plc, the members of the executive committee of CE Electric Group, Inc., and the members of the executive committee of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc., accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement, and to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case. The advertisements contained in this document are not intended to constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for shares in CE Electric Group, Inc., or Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc.

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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES



#### REVIEW OF THE COURT OF APPEAL (CIVIL DIVISION)

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has set up a Review of the Court of Appeal (Civil Division). The Review is headed by Sir Jeffrey Bowman. It reflects concern about the increasing number of applications and appeals, and consequent delays in the hearing of civil appeals.

The Review will examine:

- the rules, procedures and working methods of the Civil Division
- the appropriateness of the scope of the Court's jurisdiction
- the appropriate constitution of the Court for different categories of case
- the legal and administrative support to the Court

Sir Jeffrey Bowman will be writing to a number of bodies seeking their views on the options for reform in these areas. However, anyone who wishes to contribute to the Review is invited to write with their suggestions no later than 14 February 1997 to:

Nigel Osner  
Secretary  
Court of Appeal Review Secretariat  
Solicitors' House  
54-60 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QW

The Review will put forward recommendations to the Lord Chancellor for improving the efficiency of the operation of the Court next summer.

### NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR HEDGES V. MARCH COASTERS LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plaintiff in the action entitled "Hedges v. March Coasters Ltd" has filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal against the judgment of the County Court of London, dated 21st November 1995, in the cause No. 95C 00002, rendered by Mr Justice Michael J. Hedges, sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LP, in which the Plaintiff, Mr Alan Hedges, sought damages for the loss of his boat, the "March Coasters Ltd", which sank on 21st November 1995, and the Plaintiff, Mr Alan Hedges, is represented by Mr Michael J. Hedges, Esq., of 10 St. Dunstan's Chambers, London EC4P 4AB.

Notice is given that the Plaintiff, Mr Alan Hedges, has filed an application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, dated 21st November 1995, in the cause No. 95C 00002, rendered by Mr Justice Michael J. Hedges, sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LP, in which the Plaintiff, Mr Alan Hedges, sought damages for the loss of his boat, the "March Coasters Ltd", which sank on 21st November 1995, and the Plaintiff, Mr Alan Hedges, is represented by Mr Michael J. Hedges, Esq., of 10 St. Dunstan's Chambers, London EC4P 4AB.

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Saunders awaits Euro ruling  Mathematics behind insurance mergers  Defeat for Myerson and Treger

THE judgment that the European Court of Human Rights is threatening to hand down today is a bad one through and through, and far more damaging than any petty row over a smacked 12-year-old. The court is contemplating the restoration of Ernest Saunders's reputation.

Since his 1990 conviction for theft and other offences, Mr Saunders has stage-managed a rehabilitation of that reputation even more miraculous, in its own way, than the sudden lifting of the mental problems that once plagued him. It is the culmination of an extraordinary, often single-handed, public relations campaign.

Outside the City, he is now seen as a lone bairn against injustice, the little man against the system. This is a view that might surprise those who knew the man in his heyday, "Deadly Ernest" the put-upon victim? The man who conspired with a few chums to steal millions now a political prisoner?

Part of the problem is that the Guinness fraud, to the uninitiated, looks like the perfect victimless crime, one bunch of rich phonatics outwitting another bunch, a few figures manipulated on a screen and no one any worse off. This is quite untrue. By artificially raising the Guinness share price, they bought Distillers on the cheap,

so depriving any investor in the holding of some of the value of the holding. As Distillers was one of the most widely held stocks at the time, this means virtually anyone with a pension lost out, if only marginally. It is a classic example of how to make a packet by robbing large numbers of people of extremely small amounts of money. No wonder the backhanders paid to that little cart totalled £25 million.

Mr Saunders's appeal to the court will be decided today. He claims the questioning he underwent by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors amounted to forced self-incrimination, contrary to the established legal principle of a right to silence. The inspectors, under the 1985 Companies Act, can request answers to their questions on pain of up to two years' imprisonment. This evidence can then be used by the prosecution.

There is one plain reason why Mr Saunders's case should fail. We expect a higher standard of behaviour from those whom we charge to look after our money, a fact implicit in all the regulatory

paraphernalia of finance. Directors should be no different from other investment advisers, no matter in whose interests they are charged to act.

Consider these questions. In the battle between the fraudster and the prosecuting authorities, which side is, on the available criminal case history, operating at a disadvantage? And are the laws and regulations as they stand, post-Maxwell, post-BCCI, post all the other scandals, strong enough to protect all investors? And do they need weakening further at the behest of a European court, and on behalf of Ernest Saunders?

#### Brokering the perfect deal

HOWEVER good the deal may look on paper, the real trick in merging two insurance companies is persuading the staff to work with each other. Insurers are people businesses and their cultures are often strikingly different. This is why, in spite of talk of consolidation, brokers have been cautious in seeking

ing towards the Lloyd's of London reconstruction plan.

People companies have high running expenses, which is why mergers look so tempting: computer systems harmonised, offices sold — and mass sackings all round, and Merry Christmas to the lot of you. Worldwide, the sector is already consolidating; only last week the merger between two US insurers, Aon Corporation and Alexander Services, created the world's largest broker. Further deals are expected, with Marsh & McLennan of the US thought to be about to buy Minet.

This puts pressure on smaller brokers who are not big enough to compete. Speculation has surrounded Willis Corroon and Sedgwick, the UK's two biggest. Both have high expenses relative to turnover, and some in the industry believe that they should merge and embark on, yes, that rigorous cost-cutting.

In such a climate, the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson could bear fruit for both. The new company becomes the third-biggest broker in the UK, with strengths in a number of niche markets.

Shares in fellow brokers were up again yesterday; clearly the market believes this is far from being the last big deal in the sector.

#### Seeking value in strange places

ANOTHER day, another defeat for Brian Myerson and Julian Treger and their UK Active Value fund. Just whose value they are actively promoting and by how much is never quite clear — registration in the British Virgin Islands tends to see to that. But Kenwood shareholders have little to thank the duo for.

Myerson and Treger are self-styled corporate governance guerrillas, who claim to go into underperforming companies

and take them apart, using strategic stakes as their lever.

Their record is mixed, and their involvement in the affairs of

Kenwood suffered a strong re-

buff yesterday, more than 90 per cent of the other shareholders

backing the board. As has been the case before, it is not too clear what UK Active was trying to achieve. The idea gets its shares at once.

## Repackaged stores help MFI to advance 63%

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND CHERIS AYRES

NEW-LOOK stores and a recovery in consumer confidence combined to propel profits at MFI, Britain's largest kitchen and bedroom furniture group, 63 per cent higher in the first half.

In the six months ending November 9, pre-tax profits were £32.7 million, compared with £20.1 million a year ago.

John Randall, chief executive, said that in MFI's view the

housing market remains dormant. He said the 13.5 per cent like-for-like sales growth was instead thanks to improved consumer confidence and the new format MFI Homeworks stores, which are replacing traditional MFI outlets.

The converted stores have a broader range of goods on offer, wider aisles and natural lighting. A total of 78 out of MFI's 184 UK stores are now

trading as MFI Homeworks, with another 40 conversions planned for next year.

Homeworks stores are smaller, and the conversions have allowed MFI to sub-lease 130,000 square feet of retailing space. The group is currently negotiating with tenants to increase this to 300,000 square feet by the end of the year. If all the space is leased, it will give annual savings of up to £4 million.

Derek Hunt, chairman, said the sub-leasing programme allows the company to hedge against future rent rises and takes advantage of the high demand for out-of-town and edge-of-town sites created by restrictive planning regulations.

MFI will also be heavily investing in Howden Joinery, the builders' warehouse chain, which now has 24 depots. This number is set to double by the end of the next financial year, with new depots planned for the Midlands and the South of England.

Mr Hunt said MFI had benefited from the strength of the pound, which had pushed down the cost of raw materials in Europe. In the first half, like-for-like sales in the French stores were 11 per cent ahead but trade there is now being hampered by difficult market conditions.

The company is to open a handful of new outlets in Spain, where it currently has three small stores.

Earnings per share rose 62 per cent to 3.85p and the interim dividend has been increased to 1.7p. It is payable on February 7.

Tempus, page 24

#### Levitt fails to show for court

A warrant was issued yesterday for the arrest of Roger Levitt, the disgraced former life and pensions salesman, after he failed to attend court to answer a charge of breaking a ban on acting as a director. Mr Levitt, banned for seven years in 1993 after pleading guilty to misleading financial regulators, had been accused of taking on a shadow directorship of International Boxing Corporation (IBC).

**Hemsley ahead**

Raphael Zorn, Hemsley, the broker, lifted pre-tax profits to £746,208 (£225,000) in the year to September 30. Earnings were 4.1p a share (1.5p) and the dividend is raised to 2p (1.25p). KZH plans to acquire Insurance Analysis, a Lloyd's adviser, in exchange for the issue of 1.7 million ordinary shares, worth around £1.4 million.

#### ASW disposal

ASW, the steel stockholding company, is raising £3.5 million through the sale of AML, its metal recycling operations, to Philip Environmental, the Canadian industrial services company. The sale is subject to shareholder approval.

#### Prism Rail in £11m cash call

BY MARTIN BARROW

PRISM RAIL, which owns more privatised train franchises than any other company, is raising £11.2 million through a rights issue.

The proceeds will be used to part-fund the £19 million capital requirement laid down by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. Prism secured the West Anglia Great Northern (WAGN) franchise this month.

The company is offering five new shares for every 28 held at 330p each. Existing shares fall 5p to 445p yesterday. The shares were issued at 100p this year.

Prism, based in Keighley, West Yorkshire, has won four franchises — WAGN, LTS Rail, South Wales & West Railway (SWW) and Cardiff

#### Howden sees order intake increase 17%

HOWDEN GROUP, the engineer, enjoyed a 17 per cent rise in its order intake, to £284 million, in the first half after a dramatic pick-up in the second quarter offset a slow start to the year (Martin Barrow writes).

However, pre-tax profits were little changed, at £11 million, in the half to October 31, against £11 million previously, and earnings per share fell to 2.4p, from 2.6p, reflecting an increase in minority interests. The interim dividend rises by 5 per cent, to 1p.

Operating profits fell to £12.4 million, from £13.4 million, in spite of a £530,000 contribution from acquisitions. The decline was partly offset by a fall in interest charges to £1.37 million, from £2.44 million. The strong pound cut first-half profits by £600,000. Howden said it would continue to inhibit profit growth in the short term.

#### Bizarre twist to options dealing mystery

#### Elusive Booth returns cash

BRITON Mark Booth, the alleged insider dealer who made a £52 million (£1 million) profit from options dealing ahead of KPN's £2 billion bid for TNT, took an unexpected twist yesterday when it emerged Mr Booth had asked his broker to give the money to the investors from whom he acquired the stock (Rachel Bridge writes).

Mr Booth, who went missing when the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) launched an investigation into his transaction in September, sent an unmarked fax to Ord Minnett, his brokers, instructing

them what to do with the proceeds.

The profits were frozen in a cash management account while the ASC searched for Mr Booth — believed to be an alias — and will now be distributed to the previous owners of the options.

The ASC said it will continue to search for Booth until it goes back to court to resolve the matter in February. Chris Gorman, managing director of Ord Minnett, said: "As far as we're concerned the matter is largely closed. We have no way of contacting Mr Booth and we don't expect to hear from Mr Booth again."

## JIB agrees £300m insurance merger

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYD THOMPSON and JIB Group, the commercial insurance brokers, have announced plans to merge, forming the third-largest broker in the UK (See Pennington, this page).

The company, based in Salisbury, Wiltshire, said that pre-tax profits fell to £960,000 before tax, from £2.52 million, in the 24 weeks to September 14. Earnings fell to 5.25p a share, from 14.39p. The interim dividend is held at 4p a share. Profits were affected by a £470,000 charge against the cost of closing the offices of Centric, a Midlands pub group acquired in 1994, while launching new brands and "continuing competitive pressures" also applied the squeeze.

The company responded positively, and shares in JIB rose 21p, to 130p, while Lloyd Thompson rose 12p, to 174p.

Attention also turned to Willis and Sedgwick, with brokers speculating that they might be forced to take defensive action, perhaps in the form of a merger. Shares of Willis rose 4p, to 135.5p, and Sedgwick by 5.5p, to 132p.

Speculation also pushed up the price of Commercial Union shares, which was rumoured last week to have considered a deal with BAT Industries.

JIB shareholders will be offered four new Lloyd Thompson shares for every five JIB shares held under the terms of the merger, which is expected to take place in February. Lloyd Thompson shareholders will hold approximately 43 per cent and JIB shareholders approximately 57 per cent of the share capital of the new company.

Lloyd Thompson specialises in the UK, European and Bermudian markets, while JIB operates in 30 countries worldwide. Lloyd Thompson said that it intended to pay a special dividend of 6p net per Lloyd Thompson share, subject to the merger going ahead.

#### Newman Tonks rises after offer

RIVAL bidders are circling Newman Tonks, the building materials group, which has already turned down a tentative offer for the company from FKI, the engineering group (Carl Mortishaw writes).

Shares in Newman Tonks surged from 102p to 129p yesterday as the stock market reacted to news of FKI's approach. FKI approached Newman Tonks last week with indications that it would be prepared to make a cash offer of 134p per share. The Newman Tonks board believes the indicative price is insufficient but FKI may offer a higher price. At 134p, a bid would value the company at £71 million. Other parties are believed to be interested in the group. Tempus, page 24

 Anglian Water

Anglian Water Plc wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends

that, this year, we are not sending Christmas cards.

Instead, we're making donations to several local children's charities and hospices.



## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Dow leaves London on a high note in thin trading

**STOCK** short, among blue chips and a positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the London stock market to end the day on a high note.

In contrast, government securities flattered away early gains, unsettled by the stronger-than-expected US industrial production numbers.

After last week's volatility, the FTSE 100 index enjoyed a pedestrian performance to close at its best of the day with a rise of 21.4 points at 3,993.8. But trading remained thin, with 649 million shares changing hands.

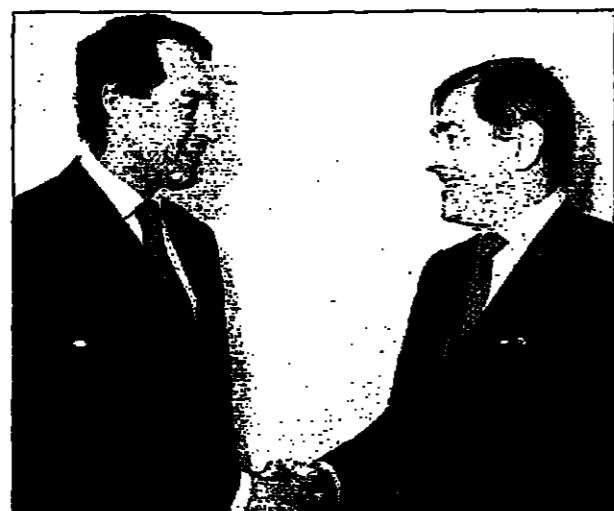
British Aerospace recovered from an early markdown that greeted news of the huge merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to become the biggest planemaker in the world. But worries that Airbus Industrie, in which BAe has a sizeable stake, would suffer were soon brushed aside. BAe also has a close working relationship with McDonnell Douglas and that is expected to benefit the group in the longer term. BAe finished 11p dearer at £11.36p.

Pearson rose 7p to 701p before a trading statement expected this week. It will be the first chance for Marjorie Scardino, the new chief executive, to outline her plans.

There was further heavy turnover in British Gas, with more than 15 million shares changing hands as the price slipped 2p to 229p. There was also heavy turnover in shares of Wiggins Group, the building contractor, with the price holding steady at 8p as 10.4 million shares were traded.

Speculators moved in on Newman Tonks as the price surged 26p to 129p on confirmation of weekend reports that it had received a bid approach from FKI, 1p higher at 200p. It is thought FKI must be prepared to offer at least £150 million if it wants the bid to have the backing of the Newman Tonks board.

JIB Group, the insurance broker where John Barton is chief executive, climbed 21p to 130p after taking the City by surprise with terms of a merger with Lloyd Thompson. LT, where Ken Carter is chief executive, was 1p firmer at 174p. At Friday's close JIB was valued at £107 million. JIB shareholders will be offered four new Lloyd Thompson shares for every five JIB. The enlarged company will carry a £304 million price tag. There has been much specu-



Joining hands: Ken Carter, left, with John Barton, of JIB

lation in recent weeks about further consolidation among insurance brokers. Only last week Aon announced plans to merge with ARA. But the spotlight has fallen recently on Sedgwick Group, up 51p at 132p, following suggestions that Marsh McLennan, the US insurance broker, was ready to pounce. More than 1 million Sedgwick shares changed

million to less than a million and the group warned the market that the second half was also likely to disappoint. Rowan Dartington, the broker, has slashed its forecast for the year from £5.8 million to £3 million.

Bass finished 13p lower at 799p after going ex dividend. The group is acquiring a 36.1 per cent stake in the Bristol

Hotel chain in the US. Bass will issue 9.4 million shares, worth £75 million, for 47 Holiday Inns full-service hotels and 14 hotel management contracts.

Also in ex dividend form was GEC, 4p off at 367p. Highams Systems Services, the business services group, established a useful premium in first time trading on the Alternative Investment Mar-

ket after a placing by Teather & Greenwood. Opening up at 77p, the price touched a peak of 94.5p before closing at 87p, a premium of 15p.

But there were several newcomers that traded at a discount. Pilat Technology touched 70p before retreating to close 4p down at 64.5p. Henderson Technology, the investment trust, also made a disappointing start on the big board. Offered at 100p, HT started life at 97p and rallied to 99p before closing at 98.5p.

It was enough to bring a smile even to Mr Grumpy's face as shares of Copyright Promotions rose 6p to 66p. The group, which markets cartoon characters, including Mr Men, has just signed a lucrative US television deal.

A sharp increase in property last year was good news for Raphael Zorn Hemsley, one of the few publicly quoted stockbrokers, which finished 5p better at 82.5p.

A profits warning took its toll on EyeCare Products, leaving the price nursing a fall of 9.5p to 18p.

It was another busy day for Tradepoint, the publicly quoted rival to the Stock Exchange. Turnover reached £8.4 million, its fourth best ever, and it accounted for 60 per cent of all turnover in shares of National Grid, 13p easier at 183.5p.

Systems Integrated held steady at 37p after announcing plans for a radical restructuring that will involve shedding almost one-third of its workforce.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Some

speculators blunted what had been a firm start to trading in London. Institutions were reluctant to open fresh positions as they began winding down for the festive break. This was reflected in the futures pit, where only 28,000 contracts were completed as the March long gilt slipped a tick to £109 1/2, after hitting a high for the day of £109 1/2.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down 1/2 at £102.16. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was down 1/16 to £102 1/16 among shorts.

□ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average was up 32.68 points to 6,337.55 after surging more than 50 points in the first few minutes of trading, boosted by the rally in Boeing.

□ **FALLS:** Caltech ..... 487.5p (+16p)

BAT ..... 478.5p (+12p)

Closing Prices Page 26

Source: Datastream

Spot CIF NW Europe (group delivery)

Jan ..... 225.00 BID 240.00

Feb ..... 237.25-247.75 BID 240.00

Mar ..... 239.00 BID 240.00

Apr ..... 240.00 BID 240.00

May ..... 241.00 BID 240.00

June ..... 242.00 BID 240.00

July ..... 243.00 BID 240.00

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Oct ..... 246.00 BID 240.00

Nov ..... 247.00 BID 240.00

Dec ..... 248.00 BID 240.00

Source: Datastream

Spot CIF NW Europe (group delivery)

Jan ..... 240.00 BID 240.00

Feb ..... 241.00 BID 240.00

Mar ..... 242.00 BID 240.00

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Source: Datastream

Spot CIF NW Europe (group delivery)

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Dec ..... 251.00 BID 240.00

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Feb ..... 241.00 BID 240.00

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**THE  
TIMES**  
**CITY  
DIARY**

**Hunting for words at MFI**

A FIRST for Derek Hunt, MFI's flamboyant chairman, who was unusually lost for words at yesterday's interim results meeting.

Asked for his predictions on the future of the housing market, Hunt replied rather tardy: "If I was as good at predicting things as you think I am, then surely I would be a millionaire." A voice in the crowd piped up: "But you are a millionaire."

For once, Hunt looked crestfallen.

**Silent night**

POOR Stephen Davidson. The acting chief executive of TeleWest, the largest cable company, had hoped to learn in November whether he would be confirmed as full-time chief executive, replacing Alan Michels. But the TeleWest board could not make up its mind and begged for more time; it would let him know by the end of the year. It is still too early, however, to wish him a Merry Christmas. Davidson has just learned that the TeleWest board will now make its decision on January 23. So much for happy holidays.

**Herd laughing**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Andrew Herd and Barry Leighton who were yesterday appointed directors at Société Générale. Previously at Paribas and Morgan Grenfell, Herd will specialise in international mergers and acquisitions in the financial institutions sector. When he left his first post at Price Waterhouse, senior partner Ian Brindley, remarked that Herd was the only person who made him laugh in the morning. Yes, but how?



"We could make more by letting it fully furnished"

**Bosses' faith**

ALMOST 86 per cent of executive directors who run UK-listed companies have sufficient faith in the business to retain a large chunk of their original holding, buy shares or take up more via option schemes, according to a survey commissioned by Price Waterhouse. The bad news is that around 16 per cent have no stake in the companies that they manage. Gary Ashworth, the founding chairman of Abacus Recruitment, is out in the lead with a 90.9 per cent stake, the biggest block of share capital owned by any one director. Also up there is Kim Tan, with a 79.9 per cent stake in KS Biomedix Holdings, and Russell Nathan, with an 87.1 per cent holding in Romtec, the IT provider.

**Inside story**

A NEW YEAR and a new start for Duncan Hopper, the controversial managing director of Legal & General's healthcare division. Having joined the insurance company when it set up its healthcare arm almost two years ago, Hopper is now on his way out. According to an insider, his departure is the result of a "personality clash" with David Prosser, L&G's chief executive. Maybe this will give Hopper, a short-story writer for *Granita*, the opportunity to develop his bent for writing.

MORAG PRESTON



European Airbuses flying in the livery of USAir. The Boeing merger has considerable implications for the future of the Airbus consortium

## Boeing marriage leaves BAe in need of a 'grand alliance'

The US aviation merger puts immediate pressure on Europe's aerospace industry to effect a strategy that will enable it to continue in competition. Oliver August reports

The aerospace industry has not been hit by an alliance quite like this for a while. Boeing, the world's number one, is taking McDonnell Douglas, the number three, to the altar. Together they could have the power to dictate procurement prices to airlines and air forces around the world unless Europe can produce a competitor of equal weight.

Boeing, as the joint company will be known, is emerging as the undisputed top dog in the battle with its rival Lockheed Martin. Anti-trust regulators could still mug the newly-weds en route to the honeymoon but this deal is not highly controversial. Unlike the BA-American Airlines link-up, the companies are bringing complementary talents into the union.

Boeing cornered the civil aviation market without ever really gaining a foothold on the military side, which is where McDonnell Douglas has been dominant throughout the Cold War. Together the two hope to save \$1 billion a year, which looks only mildly impressive compared to Lockheed's aim of saving closer to \$3 billion.

The deal has ruffled a few feathers in the United States where Lockheed is Boeing's main competitor but it has been preparing for such a move with its own acquisition of Martin Marietta, which temporarily put it ahead of Boeing in terms of sales. But it is in Europe, specifically British Aerospace and its European partners, that the long-term impact will really be felt.

Most current BAe projects will be affected by the Boeing deal and every BAe division will need to review its strategic plans. Just when it seemed to be drawing level, Europe's aerospace industry has to play catch-up again. The fact that Airbus matched Boeing's orders in 1994 no longer matters.

But Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of BAe, will not have been completely surprised by the new situation. Much to his credit, BAe has been advocating for years that European aerospace and defence companies need to consolidate to survive. His message will now be heard louder and clearer than before.

The primary reason for consolidation is the ending of the Cold War. Defence budgets around the world have been squeezed to harvest a peace dividend. This was especially true in America, where a political sea change has been effected by the loss of lucrative defence contracts.

The cost of modern aircraft is another factor. Whether in military or civilian aviation, rising standards have been achieved by increasing costs. With every new generation, the bills are marked up. Today the development, let alone the production, of aircraft is so expensive that costs must be spread across borders. Taxpayers are no longer

prepared to fund the duplication of research and production facilities for the privilege of putting the national flag on the finished product.

Where does this leave BAe?

The company faces three strategic options. First, it could try to join the American bandwagon and build one or more transatlantic alliances. BAe would by no means be entering new ground here. McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's bride, used to be BAe's running mate. Together the two made the Harrier jumpjet a worldwide success.

But recently the relationship has lost its way. Last month, their bid to build the Joint Strike Fighter, the navy fighter jet for the next century, was thrown out by the Pentagon before the tendering had started. While Lockheed and Boeing were given more than \$500 million each to develop prototypes, BAe and McDonnell Douglas were left to offer their expertise to those two. Now that Boeing has found a partner, Lockheed may try

even harder to get BAe on board.

However, this could only work as a one-off. BAe should not enter a transatlantic partnership because it would end up as the junior partner irrespective of who it picks. Even if it is to team up with a smaller US company, America's recessionary laws would ultimately be in the driving seat.

Nevertheless, being in the driving seat is what BAe has shown itself to be very good at. Its biggest order this year, the Nimrod marine aircraft, is a case in point. BAe acts as primary contractor, passing workshares to subcontractors. The new BAe has been purpose-built for such projects by Sir Richard.

If a US link-up is out, could this be the time to revive Lord Weinstein's old dream of merging BAe and GEC? The arguments against this are still the same. Creating "national champions" is a dangerous game to play. Such industrial giants become so

important to the national economy that future political decisions get deadlocked. BAe has discarded a GEC alliance for good in favour of seeking stronger European ties. It is down this road that BAe and its potential partners on the Continent will be pushed by the Boeing deal.

The primary focus here is Airbus. The four-nation joint venture is scheduled to become a listed company before the end of the decade. Other driving seats are what BAe has shown itself to be very good at. Its biggest order this year, the Nimrod marine aircraft, is a case in point. BAe acts as primary contractor, passing workshares to subcontractors. The new BAe has been purpose-built for such projects by Sir Richard.

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The single currency among themselves, talk among themselves," he said. Unless Germany balks at the whole thing, what is in prospect is a European talking shop, a street market noisy with professional hagglers, an interminable teleconference where executive decisions are held up because satellite reception from Greece is fuzzy and Britain refuses to accept its share of the cost, a monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, held nightmares in a hall of mirrors.

This is not to say that sovereignty over economic decision-making and democratic accountability are expendable. They are not. But to give away some control, a bit of sovereignty, in exchange for partial monetary discipline from a central bank still subject to ministerial nods and winks seems like a very bad bargain indeed. This new system would make the Brussels bureaucracy, already regarded with such suspicion by European voters, look positively streamlined.

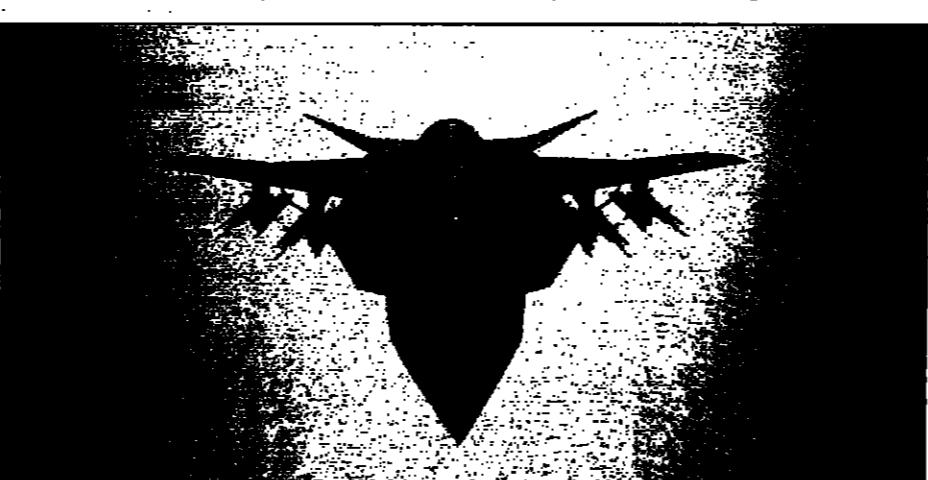
In deciding to join the exchange-rate mechanism, Britain, cowed by decades of bad macroeconomic management, opted for handing over effective control of its monetary policy to the Bundesbank, which at least boasted a proven record of success in defending its currency and fighting inflation. The loss of flexibility and control that

that experiment entailed still leaves most Britons extremely suspicious of things European. The prospect of economic policy made in Paris is likely to prove positively disastrous.

Of course, there will be optimists returning home from Dublin who will argue that recent deals will rightly reassure their electorates on sovereignty while, as a minimum, ensuring the discipline conferred by an independent European central bank. But why should any of us have confidence in a confusing mush-mash arrived at because the political aspirations of France and Germany were, at root, incompatible and pushed through because they were too proud to admit it?

Euro-enthusiasts argue that only chaos would ensue if the project is abandoned, that all the fiscal and monetary discipline that striving to meet the Maastricht criteria has enforced would break down. That is to give up entirely on the duty of governments to pursue sensible economic policies. It also ignores the fact that there is no better source of discipline than that of the market. How much swifter and more objective the punishment for economic recklessness imposed by the markets than a Stability Pact subject to political negotiation.

It is clear that the economic arguments for the single currency are fast imploding



The proposed Joint Strike Fighter, a failed BAe project with McDonnell Douglas

Eric Reguly on Hollinger's surprise newspaper sale

## Media 'gem' loses its lustre

One of the longest media battles came to a surprise ending yesterday when Hollinger International, the newspaper group controlled by Conrad Black, sold its 25 per cent stake in John Fairfax Holdings to Brierley Investments, parent company of *The Times*, ridding it of its heels. Mr Packer bought a 15 per cent stake in Fairfax while News Corp tucked about 5 per cent into its portfolio. Mr Black doubled his efforts to raise his Fairfax stake to 35 per cent at 25 per cent he was a sitting duck. He said at the time: "The problem is, if there were a takeover offer we'd be vulnerable."

The campaign failed, but Mr Black did not give up hope. In March, Mr Keating lost the election and John Howard, the

Liberal Prime Minister, hinted that the ownership rules would change. In the end, the restrictions remained and Mr Black made good his threat to get out. The effort was not a total loss. He said Hollinger will book a capital gain of about US\$220 million on the Fairfax sale.

Hollinger, an acquisitions machine by nature, will not spend the money immediately. Instead, it will be used to eliminate some Hollinger debt. "We might enjoy having a conservative balance sheet for a while," Mr Black said.

But Hollinger never sits still for long. There is speculation that it would like to expand its small-town newspaper business in the US — it has run out of room in Canada and has shown little interest in buying another national paper in Britain — and may go after the Journal Register chain in the North East. The papers are owned by Warburg Pincus, the investment bank that owns a stake in Channel 5, Britain's new terrestrial broadcaster.

Brierley's plans for Fairfax are not known. Paul Collins, chief executive, said that Brierley "looks forward to being a supportive, long-term shareholder", but observers note that the group makes a living by buying and selling investments. They would not be surprised if Brierley was holding the Fairfax shares for another buyer, who could be Kerry Packer. He is still keen to own Fairfax but cannot go beyond 15 per cent because of his television interests. Mr Packer may be gambling that the Government will change the media ownership rules sooner rather than later. If so, he will know on which door to knock.



Conrad Black patience exhausted

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JANET  
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## Talking euro nonsense

The single currency among themselves, talk among themselves," he said. Unless Germany balks at the whole thing, what is in prospect is a European talking shop, a street market noisy with professional hagglers, an interminable teleconference where executive decisions are held up because satellite reception from Greece is fuzzy and Britain refuses to accept its share of the cost, a monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, held nightmares in a hall of mirrors.

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# Equities up but gilts weaken

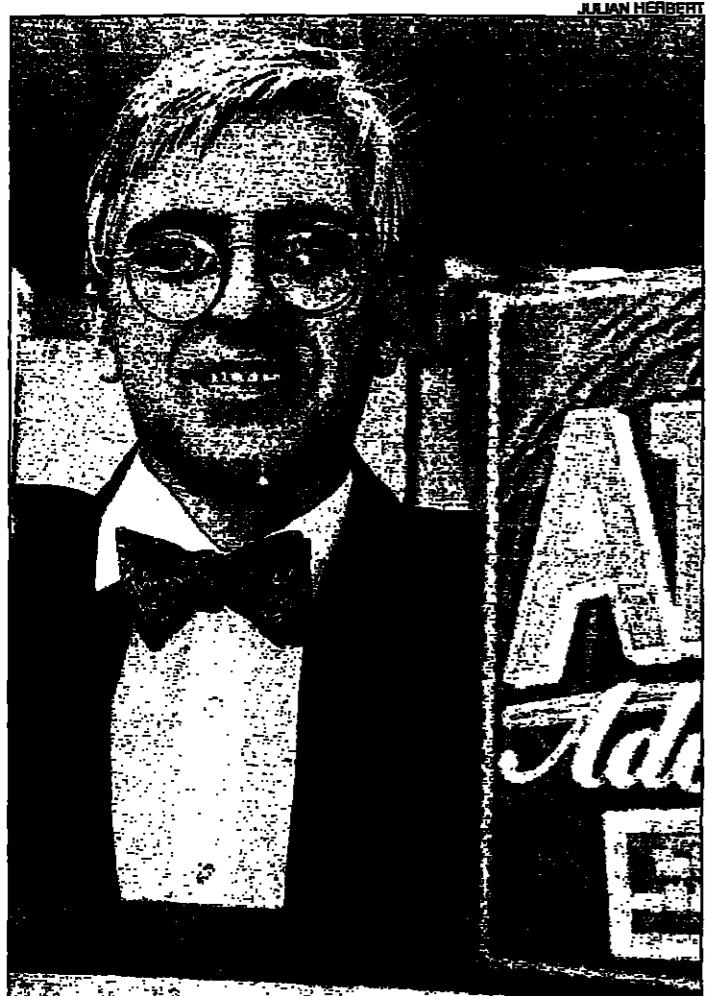
**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	P/E		High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	P/E		High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>																							
419	423	419	Admiral Distillers	423	+3	7.8	12.8		605	618	Barroway Distillers	627	+1	2.9	16.0		1725	1725	Johns Distillers	157	+2	2.6	19.1
417	421	417	Bell's	421	-1	5.3	12.5		523	520	Bell's	527	+1	2.9	17.0		1211	1211	Black & White	157	+2	2.6	19.1
615	617	615	Bronte	617	-1	12.5	21.1		240	240	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1177	1177	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
425	425	425	Caledonian	425	-1	2.5	12.5		241	241	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1178	1178	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
378	375	375	Highland Park	375	-2	3.2	12.5		242	242	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1179	1179	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		243	243	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1180	1180	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		244	244	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1181	1181	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		245	245	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1182	1182	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		246	246	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1183	1183	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		247	247	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1184	1184	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		248	248	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1185	1185	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		249	249	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1186	1186	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		250	250	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1187	1187	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		251	251	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1188	1188	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		252	252	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1189	1189	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		253	253	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1190	1190	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		254	254	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1191	1191	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		255	255	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1192	1192	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		256	256	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1193	1193	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		257	257	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1194	1194	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		258	258	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1195	1195	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		259	259	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1196	1196	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		260	260	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1197	1197	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		261	261	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1198	1198	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		262	262	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1199	1199	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		263	263	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1200	1200	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		264	264	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1201	1201	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		265	265	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1202	1202	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		266	266	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1203	1203	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		267	267	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1204	1204	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		268	268	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1205	1205	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		269	269	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1206	1206	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		270	270	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1207	1207	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		271	271	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1208	1208	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		272	272	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1209	1209	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		273	273	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1210	1210	Blue Bell	157	+2	2.6	19.1
141	141	141	Macduff	141	-1	5.3	14.5		274	274	Bladnoch	247	+1	4.2	17.0		1211	121					

SUPPORT SERVICE

Clare Stewart and Jennai Cox on how board games are on a roll for Christmas

## Success is kids' stuff



The turnaround came for Gary Wyatt when he found there was a world market for his low-tech board games for children

**T**he Nuremberg toy fair has particular significance for entrepreneur Gary Wyatt (Clare Stewart writes). He says: "The turnaround in my business came when I realised there was a world market for my products." Mr Wyatt, 39, runs the Green Board Game Company, maker of fun and educational games for children.

France is now his biggest market, ahead of the US and UK, accounting for £100,000 of sales. Despite the electronic sophistication of many modern games, board games have retained their appeal. Figures from the Association of Toy Retailers showed that traditional toys such as Monopoly and Lego are again bestsellers this Christmas.

Showing small children at toy fairs how to play games with Wikki Stix - coloured strands that can be made into models - is a far cry from Mr Wyatt's previous occupation as a director of insurance at American Express.

Trained as an accountant and with an MBA from Cranfield, leaving the comfortable corporate world and plunging into the chiller environment of running a small business would seem an unlikely career move. "I left because I had had enough commuting around Europe and because I had invented a game," he explains. Traffic jams on the M25 are credited with the inspiration for his first game because Mr Wyatt found himself making up words from the letters of car number plates.

The idea took root and emerged as Alpha Animals, in which players move around a board marked out with different letters, having to name types of animal beginning with the letter on which they land.

Before leaving American Express, Mr Wyatt tested the water for his game by exhibiting at two trade fairs. The very encouraging response prompted him to run the business full time, ploughing around £50,000 of savings into producing the first 3,500 games.

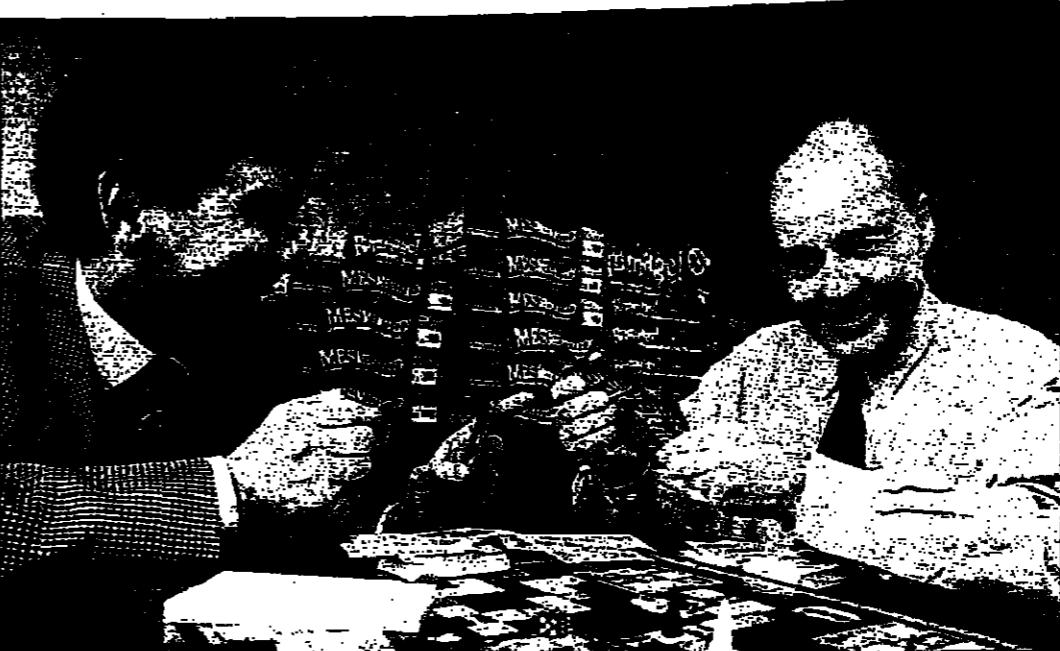
He says: "Our unit costs were far too high then. We have since learnt from experience." Together with the income from Alpha Animals, Mr Wyatt financed the company by increasing his mortgage and overdraft and taking out a loan under the Loan Guarantee Scheme. A friend also invested, in return for a small stake in the company.

"Last year we broke even and this year we will be very profitable," says Mr Wyatt. Sales this year are expected to be between £280,000 and £300,000. His goal is turnover of £1 million by 2000.

Mr Wyatt works from his home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, helped by his wife, Mary, and two part-time staff. The manufacture and distribution of the games is subcontracted out.

The Green Board Game name derives from the use of recycled materials and natural materials. Having won a clutch of awards, the company now has 14 games in its catalogue, nine of which were devised by Mr Wyatt. Sales through retailers make up 40 per cent of turnover, while a further 40 per cent comes through mail order and charity gift catalogues.

The Green Board Game Company is on 0194 538999.



Rick Vane, left, and Graham Thornton play one of the games that has brought them £250,000 turnover

## Odd ideas pay off

**T**o pass time while waiting for their television game show to take off three years ago, Graham Thornton and Rick Vane turned it into a board game (Jennai Cox writes). The television show has yet to make it on air, but *Mesmerized* was a sellout at toy shows last Christmas and is now one of five games developed by its inventors and contributing to a £250,000 turnover in the first 12 months.

The two, who have a background in presenting and promoting children's television programmes, registered their board game as a trademark and approached a manufacturer. Only one in 40 board game ideas reaches the shop

shelf, but Waddington was so taken by the idea of people giving bizarre answers to straightforward questions after being hypnotised, that it ordered a mock-up right away.

Mr Thornton and Mr Vane then wrote the questions and promotional material and were ready to go when, at the start of last year, Waddington was taken over by Hasbro, which put all new ideas on hold. Having put in two years' work, the pair decided to take their idea to other manufacturers, and Spears expressed interest. However, by the time the two men had bought back the rights, there were no trade fairs left for Spears to advertise the game. So, the pair set up TV Board

Games to produce and sell *Mesmerized* themselves. "We were stunned by the reaction," Mr Thornton said. "Within two weeks of selling the game we had a huge order from Toys 'R Us."

The Midland Bank provided substantial financial help to fulfil the order, and, after the success of Christmas sales, the pair abandoned their television careers to become full-time game inventors.

A priority was to get another game on to the market. "The most difficult thing in this industry is persuading buyers to take new games," said Mr Vane. "There are so many people who make one game, make some money and then disappear. They need to know you are going to be around for a while."

*Rummage*, based on an orientation exercise used by Henry VIII's courtiers to familiarise themselves with palaces, was launched in January. "Our games are very unconventional," Mr Vane said.

The pair have had approaches from big companies, but are committed to keeping their business independent and British. And they are unworried by competition from television. "Retailers have reported growth in traditional board games this year," Mr Thornton said. "You can't interact when watching television or playing computer games."



"It's the three wise men"

□ TV Board Games: 01904 613318

A SMALL business in Wiltshire is bringing back the traditional wooden jigsaw puzzles associated with Christmases past (Rodney Hobson writes).

Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Company was launched two years ago by Kevin Preston, who had taken early retirement as an accountant. His mother was in a nursing home and she asked him to get her a wooden puzzle like the ones she had as a little girl.

He thought it would be easy, but apart from simple puzzles for young children all the ones in the shop were the mass-produced

## Traditional jigsaw puzzle solved

cardboard variety that his mother disdained. In the end he made one for her and decided there could be a market for wooden puzzles for adults.

James Leith, marketing manager, says: "Mr Preston felt there had to be a way of using new technology to produce old-fashioned wooden jigsaws. We heat-seal images onto plywood so they are very smooth and shiny like gloss paint. A computer-driven

laser cuts the pieces." Clients are mainly blue-chip companies and heritage organisations. Invitations can be overprinted on pictures of, say, a golfing scene to invite prestige clients to hospitality events, while shops at institutions such as the National Portrait Gallery can reproduce their best-selling postcard on the puzzle.

Wentworth is also moving increasingly into high street retailers, although the growth of this

market has been slower. Whilst a maker of cardboard puzzles will produce thousands of the same designs, Wentworth can produce a run of as few as 14 economically.

It specialises in producing puzzles with specially shaped pieces. A jigsaw of massed regimental bands has 17 pieces in the shapes of musical instruments and a conductor; a gardening scene has pieces shaped as implements such as a spade or a gardening fork.

Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Company is on 01666 840033.

Prices range from £3.50 for a 40-piece puzzle intended as a Christmas stocking filler, to just under £20 for a 400-piece puzzle.

Mr Leith says: "We can do anything with a jigsaw puzzle. If a company wants a promotional puzzle to launch a new product we can cut pieces in the shape of the product and the company logo."

Wentworth has ten full-time staff, makes 7,000 puzzles a month, and sales are double last year's.

Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Company is on 01666 840033.

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## ■ VISUAL ART 1

Richard Long's topographical show inaugurates the refurbished Space gallery in Exeter



## ■ VISUAL ART 2

... while at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park Phillip King reveals his latest work



## ■ VISUAL ART 3

At Oxford, Professor Martin Kemp reveals plans to turn the old jail into a visual arts centre



## ■ VISUAL ART 4

Thirties decor revisited: a new exhibition pays homage to the singular designs of Betty Joell

**VISUAL ART:** Richard Cork reviews evocative shows in the West Country and Yorkshire. Plus London exhibitions

# The Long and winding road

**B**etween the Arnolfini in Bristol and the Tate St Ives, the West Country is poorly supplied with galleries devoted to contemporary art. Even at Exeter, where the admirable Space has pursued a lively exhibition policy in city-centre premises; a large-scale refurbishment scheme forced the gallery's closure this year. But now the improved and extended premises have been completed, and their reopening heralds an ambitious new era for this landmark, much-needed institution.

Space developed during the late 1970s from a group of artists' studios set up in a three-storey Victorian warehouse. Public exhibitions have been held on the ground floor for 18 years, but the facilities gradually became inadequate. Artists today often require a surprising amount of room to display their work, and galleries increasingly recognise the importance of providing a substantial back-up programme of educational events. So with funds provided by the National Lottery, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the Henry Moore Foundation, rebuilding began in 1995.

The outcome fully justifies the money and effort involved. Designed by Nicholas Gilbert Scott, the split-level galleries now provide ample space for even the most complex and demanding installations. In the old courtyard area, where the warehouse abuts the city's medieval and Roman walls, a luminous atrium provides room for workshops and lectures. The office has been banished to the basement, making way for a glazed entrance and reception area, while a new lighting system has transformed the visibility of exhibits throughout the space.

The real test for any gallery centres on its ability to accommodate the art on display. And by choosing Richard Long for the inaugural show, Space has scored a triumph. Always supremely sensitive to the character of the places where he works, Long uses these new rooms with aplomb. One gallery is dominated by a vast wall image, vigorously applied by hand. Monumental in itself, and surrounded by flicks, splatters and drips testifying to the vigour of its making, this awesome presence evokes the immensity of the landscape Long explores on his walks.

Traversing the earth's surface throughout the world has provided

him with a perpetual stimulus for more than a quarter of a century. For the Space show, though, he took the apt decision to concentrate on an area of special local significance.

Born in Bristol and still living near the city today, he discovered Dartmoor on childhood visits to his grandparents. The barrenness of the moor ignited his imagination, introducing him to a primordial world where only the most elemental of sculptural forms could withstand exposure.

Since 1969 Long has returned there regularly. As if in tribute to an area that played such a formative role in the development of his art, he has produced a substantial number of Dartmoor-inspired works. Once, during a two-day walk, he laid out a stone circle descended directly from the earliest

6 Stone  
clusters are  
positioned with  
spare and  
graceful  
finality

surviving manifestations of the sculptural impulse in Britain. Related stone clusters have been assembled on the floor at Space, positioned with the spare, graceful finality which distinguishes all Long's work.

He accompanies them with a selection of written works framed on the walls. Some are deliberately simple, recounting how he walked around a cairn at Great Gurnard Head a hundred times in the mist. Others shape words into primal forms redolent of his passage across the land, like the 60-minute "circle walk" he carried out on Dartmoor in 1984.

Long's limpid, potent and utterly singleminded art is untroubled by the kind of convulsive changes undergone by Phillip King's sculpture in recent years. He made his reputation in the 1960s by working principally with fibreglass, metal and plastic, exploring an abstract language with an often flamboyant eye for colour. But suddenly, around 1990, King began producing tormented bronzes where figures could be discerned, often conveying

distress or macabre humour. At once playful and anguished, they marked a disturbing departure. Now, however, King has altered again. As an exhibition of new work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park reveals, he has returned to more abstract forms without yielding the ability to surprise. For this is a show of ceramic vessels, modelled in clay mixed with grog and paper pulp. He thrives on the increasing changeability of materials today, and at the same time finds nourishment in the most ancient traditions.

The springboard for his vessels

came from a stay in Japan. He started making small vessels on a potter's wheel, and became fascinated by the products of Jomon, the oldest ceramic culture in the world. But King has no intention of copying Japanese precedents. The vessels in his new exhibition belong firmly within his own imaginative world, and their initial air of serenity soon gives way to unease.

Though the word "vessel"

may lead us to expect a consoling wholeness, he ensures that they are riddled with signs of disharmony.

Forms often turn out to be shattered, and in *Cup Drift* the tilted central object lies half-buried, like a beaker abandoned in the desert. It may arise from King's recollections of a childhood spent in Tunis, so these ceramic vessels are in one respect a throwback to King's earliest memories, when he first became aware of the mystery inherent in archaeological remains. But they also chime with his preoccupations in the early 1960s, when he would make a compact cone and then slit or slice it through. In the same spirit, he now ensures that the barrel crowning a vessel called *The Watcher* has been pierced by a triangular hole. The plinth-like form below is gashed, and a curving form leaps like a breaking wave from the shadowy interior. It is a startling eruption, both exuberant and erotic.

Most of the vessels, though,

concentrate on a more restrained interplay between swollen volumes and sharp penetrations. In the Cubist-influenced *Eye Vessel*, the ripeness of the body is assaulted by jagged cavities. But two cups are lodged invitingly at the centre of the sculpture, countering the brittle tension elsewhere.

Occasionally, the vessels take on a human identity. *Bodhisattva* suggests, in its rounded contours, a



One of Richard Long's works at Space in Exeter recalls the stone circle he laid out on Dartmoor

female figure. But her promise of fulfilment is threatened by the rigid, rectangular structure interrupting the gentle swell of her body. The high biscuit firing King employs instead of conventional glazing gives the vessels a stone finish, as bleached as the moonlit Islamic buildings he remembers

admiring in his childhood. That is why these poised and authoritative new works have such a commanding presence. Despite their wilful contradictions, they end up affirming an immemorial stillness. The pleasure King takes in exploring his new motif is clear. And in *Tree Vessel* he sums up this excitement

by transforming its spout into a sapling. Only a single green leaf springs from the branches, but its promise of future renewal is unmistakable.

• Richard Long at Space gallery, Exeter (01392 437289) until Saturday; Phillip King at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (01924 820302) until Jan 12

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

IN THE firmament of modern design, Betty Joell (1893-1985) was a shooting star, tremendously famous for barely ten years and then almost completely forgotten. She was born and brought up in China, where her father, Sir James Stewart-Lockhart, was a diploma and Colonial Secretary in Hong Kong. In 1921 she married David Joel, a naval commander, whose hobby was carpentry: he made much of the furniture for their first home, she criticised his designs, he challenged her to do better, and she did. In 1923 they set up a small business, and two years later opened a West End shop in 1926 they were so successful that they built a factory on Kingston Bypass.

Betty was the designer, and among her commissions were interiors for the new Bank of England, the lobby and reading room of the Daily Express building in Fleet Street, and offices and libraries for the Shell-Mex building, the Savoy Hotel and many grand private patrons. But in 1937 the Joels' marriage broke up, Betty retired completely, and apparently never had anything more to do with design for the rest of her long life. Her distinctive style is mostly streamlined Modern on the French model, but produced according to British Arts and Crafts ideals, with here and there a hint of her Chinese childhood peeking through.

There has never been a solo exhibition or a thorough reappraisal of her work, until now. The Joels' exhibition, which includes Betty's famous circular bed and a veneered office interior reconstructed, is staged in Foulk Lewis's new premises in Kingston Exchange, not far from the factory.

Foulk Lewis, The Kingston Exchange, 29-31 London Road, Kingston-upon-Thames (0181-549 2004), until Jan 31

□ IT IS only stating the obvious to categorise Kitty North's paintings as "landscape-based abstractions", but much more difficult to give any adequate idea of the impression they make in the flesh, one is tempted to say, so physical, edible even, do they appear. This show takes us through the various stages of creation, from the dashing on-the-spot sketches, which stay close to impressionistic representation, through the more finished pastels and small oils, where the documentary is gradually formalised out of the picture, and then to the larger oils, where the original facts of the landscape are buried in a lava-flow of paint. The result of this build-up is a highly tactile surface of delicately calculated colour.

Swan Mead Gallery, 1-4 Swan Mead, Tower Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-394 0733), until the weekend.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

## Professor plots his prison break-out

Oxford don Martin Kemp tells Isabel Carlisle about his plans for a visual arts centre in the old jail

When Martin Kemp, the new Professor of History of Art at Oxford University, was interviewed for the job, he said he wanted to "take the teaching of visual matters out of the ghettoes of the art history department". Few of those who appointed him could have realised how quickly, and how unusually, he would put his ideas into practice.

For the past six months Kemp has been working on a visual arts project centred on the now empty buildings of Oxford Prison. A consortium made up of the developer Jacobs Holdings, the Oxford Museum of Modern Art, the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, the university's art history department and the County Museum has put a

detailed proposal to Oxford Council for a new cultural and artistic centre on the site. They are now shortlisted alongside three other proposals: two for hotels, offices and shops combined, and one for an expansion by St Peter's College which abuts the site. All four will be presented to a public meeting at County Hall today. The result should be announced at the end of January.

When Oxford Prison was closed last September the Home Office offered the county council the chance to buy the site back for £9,000 (the amount which the town had

sold it for in the 1870s). Proposals were then invited for the site's development, with the brief to create 20,000 square feet of extra offices for County Hall and to make public access to the rest of the site a priority. Bounded by New Road on one side and Paradise Street on the other, the site contains the mound of Oxford's Anglo-Saxon castle, the medieval St George's Tower and the complex of prison buildings dating from the late 18th century.

There is not much scope for new architecture since many of the existing buildings are listed Grade I. Instead the

excitement comes from the possibility of opening Oxford Castle to the public once more and turning the prison buildings into spaces that both the city and the university can use. For Kemp, it means creating the right setting for his new visual studies course, as well as the chance to link art history to art teaching and to the pioneering work being done by Oxford MOMA in exploring the possibilities of video and film in art.

Plans drawn up for the consortium by the Oxford Architects Partnership give the visual studies centre a separate complex of new

buildings in the southeast corner, while Oxford MOMA is aiming to build a state-of-the-art film theatre that would also run a programme for the public.

If the consortium's bid is successful, an estimated £20 million-plus will have to be raised by all the participants together to complete the development. But as Kemp says: "No other centre will have this large a brief, cutting across traditional ideas about the fine arts. If you look at younger artists today, you see them using video, computer art and installation alongside painting and sculpture. This is all about getting rid of limitations and inhibitions." That is something for which a liberated prison site should be an appropriate setting.



Kemp: "No other centre will have so large a brief"

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## ■ CHOICE 1

**Imelda Staunton plays Adelaide in the National's *Guys and Dolls***

**VENUE:** Opens tonight at the Olivier



## ■ CHOICE 2

**Patrick Barlow takes an offbeat look at the *The Messiah***

**VENUE:** Now at the West Yorkshire Playhouse



## ■ CHOICE 3

**Richard Baker leads an evening of Christmas words and music**

**VENUE:** Tonight at the Preston Guild Hall



## ■ POP

**Shane MacGowan brings his own unique dash of the festive spirit to the Astoria**

## LONDON

**GUYS AND DOLLS** Richard Eyre stages the famous production of the Frank Loesser musical. Inside Staunton increases her role of Miss Adelaide. Directed by Tony Nardi. Goodman, Clarke Peters, Joanna Roding National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2222). Opens 7pm Sat, 7pm Mon-Sat; 7.30pm Sat, 8pm Tue, Wed and Thurs, Sun 2pm.

**THE MUSICAL MUSICAL** English National Ballet presents the last season of Ben Stevenson's magical production, with music by Tchaikovsky. National dances from Russia, Arabia, China and India. The story concerns a mighty monster king who comes to tell the story of Claus and her Nutcracker Prince as they journey through Lemuria, Asia to the fairy tale Kingdom of Sweets. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-929 4229). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Then Sun 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 Jan, 1, 2 Feb.

**SINGING CONCERT** Kenneth Sato directs the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields in the orchestra's fourth annual "shebang" concert in aid of London's homeless. Members of the audience are invited to bring a shopping (or similar) containing practical items for distribution after the concert. The evening's programme includes Bach, Schubert in 2 movements, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (soloist

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

**Archangel Gabriel**, while Bob Mason introduces the rare double of Herod and Magi in *Three Kings* and *The Messiah*. Directed by Julie Kirby. Coventry, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hall (0125-244 2111). Tues 7pm, Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri (Dec 19) mat 11pm, Sat (Dec 20) 2pm, Sat (except Jan 6), 3pm, Until Jan 18

**PRESTON** Narrator Richard Baker joins conductor Ian Tracey, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir in a programme of traditional carols and festive vocal music. Guild Hall, Lancaster Road (01722 258585). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**LONDON GALLERIES**

Alan Cristea Colour Etching (0171-433 1865). **Bonnet** Elizabeth Branci, Pictures and Jewellery (0171-251 2222). **British Museum** *Mysteries of Ancient Christ* (0171-398 1955). **Catto** Dennis Syrett "The Sun Sets Over Hong Kong" (0171-398 0922). **Edinburgh Christmas Fair** (0171-229 9252). **London** Alexander a Feast of Food in Art (0171-620 1322). **London** Winter Music (0171-514 6000). **Oliver** Christmas Cards (0171-242 7367). **Redfern** Leon Underwood and his Puppets, Kathi Szekely (0171-734 1732). **Serpentine** Bill Culbert (Galleria Laveno) (0171-402 6073).

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingham's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only**

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**Seats at all prices**

**partner for each new scene, showing that marriage can be hazardous whatever you choose. An enthralling**

**Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0171-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 7.30pm Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat 8pm Fri (Dec 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 Dec, 1, 3 Jan). Until Jan 15.**

**LEATHERHEAD** Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, one of the most enduring musicals from the canon of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, returns to the Thistlecone in Leatherhead's production.

**London** *Leatherhead* (0171-372 3721). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, various times; also Sun Dec 30, 3.30pm, 7.30pm, no perf. Christmas Day, Until January 19.

**LEEDS** For those who have concluded on Christmas cards, James Geddie plays God, Joseph and the

**Prince of Wales, County Street, W1 (0171-633 9687). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs and Sat, 3pm.**

**SWANWICH** Imaginative British premiere of Shostakovich's

**Hunting** effects. Rattle, Purcell Room, W11 (0171-229 9000). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat December 23.

**TALKING HEADS** Transfer of the Chichester solo production of Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyzack performing two monologues written and directed by Alan Bennett. Queen's Hall, Swan Street, SW1 (0171-269 0000). Sat, 8pm, mat 8pm. Tues-Sat, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

**LONG RUNNERS**

**Badly Drawn Girl** (0171-500 2000). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Tues (Dec 17-20, 24-27, 31-32). **An Ideal Husband** Old Vic (0171-929 7616). **An Inspector Calls** Garrick (0171-494 5085). **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-934 6900). **Monks of Farnham** St. George's Chapel, Farnham (0171-494 5023). **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5407). **Requiem** Royal Albert Hall (0171-416 0554). **Romeo and Juliet** Coliseum (0171-344 0555). **Tommy** Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399). **The Women in Black** Fortune (0171-436 2238). **Ticket information supplied by Supply of London Theatre.**

**FEELING MINNESOTA** (18+) Unrehearsed drama about two young law-breakers (Keanu Reeves and Vincent D'Onofrio), Director, Steven Bochco. Ritz (0171-237 2121). Virgin, Cottesloe (0171-334 0031). Warner (0171-437 4343).

**THE FIRST WIVES CLUB** (PG) Based on the 1985 novel by Marjorie Morningstar, with Lucy Lawless, Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn. Director, Hugh Wilson. Empire (01992 888 9000). Odessa (0171-229 9000). Piccadilly (0171-251 0428). Screen/Barbican (0171-933 2772). UCI Whitley (01992 888 9000). Virgin Film (0171-370 2353). Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

**THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS** (15+) Pleasant coming-of-age set in Dublin, 1977. With Jared Leto and Connie O'Hara. Director, David Keaton. ABC Television Court Road (0171-636 5148). Oldham (0161 926 0551). Warner (0171-437 4343).

**THE WICKED SONGS** (15+) Ham-fisted comic tale about twin brothers (Andy Garcia) disputing an inheritance. Director, Andrew Davis. Fox (0171-354 1700). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Tues (Dec 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, 31, Jan 1, 4, 11, 18, 25).

**THE VAN** (15+) For those who have celebrated a successful songwriting team, responsible for Dogg, Jaihous Rock and Spanish Harlem.

**NEW RELEASES**

**ACTS OF LOVE** (18+) Flawed drama boosted by Dennis Hopper's performance as a teacher in the Michael Jackson case. Directed by Peter Weir. Amy Irving and Amy Locane. Director, Bruno Barreto. Warner (0171-437 4343).

**101 DALMATIANS** (U) Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic. With Tim Burton, Richard Richard, Stephen Herek. **Barbican** (0171-433 0891).

**Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3193). **Curzon Soho** (0171-926 0459). **Empire** (0171-926 9195). **Empress Cottage** (01423 914068). **Film** (0171-254 6677). **ITV** (0171-373 2121). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-933 2121). **Star** (0171-370 2353). **UCI Whitley** (01992 888 9000). **Vinegar Joe** (0171-370 2353).

**STAR TRICK FIRST CONTACT** (12+) Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew battles the Borg. Acceptable adventure. If a little too serious. With Brent Spiner, Alice Krige, Director, Jonathan Frakes. **ABC Baker Street** (0171-935 2722). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3193). **Empire** (01992 888 9000). **ITV** (0171-373 2121). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-933 2121). **Star** (0171-370 2353).

**CURRENT**

**BRASSED OFF** (15+) Yorkshire comedy band lights up curvaceous Sugary comedy with five drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Emma Thompson, Director, David Fazal. **Tricycle** (0171-434 0031).

**THE VAN** (15+) Fun and games with a burger van during the 1990 World Cup. Student version of Roddy Doyle's *White Teeth*. With Mark Herman, Alan Alda, John Cusack, Sophie Fiennes. **ABC Pantomime** (0171-930 0551). **Odeon Haymarket** (01423 915353). **Screen/Cottage** (0171-370 2352).

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**CINEMA GUIDE**

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (●) on release across the country

**UCI Whitley** (01992 888 9000). **Vinegar Joe** (0171-370 2353). **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031).

**STEAL BIG, STEAL LITTLE** (12+) Ham-fisted comic tale about twin brothers (Andy Garcia) disputing an inheritance. Director, Andrew Davis. Fox (0171-354 1700). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Tues (Dec 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, Jan 1, 4, 11, 18, 25).

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## ■ FILM

The Hollywood dream is tested by reality, as a young screenwriter pitches her idea to the moguls



## ■ MUSIC 1

Maurizio Pollini continues his majestic progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas

## THE TIMES ARTS

## ■ MUSIC 2

Toscanini's finest hours: the maestro's best recordings are selected in Building a Library



## ■ TOMORROW

Raring to be Blanche: Jessica Lange prepares to make her West End stage debut

## Ludwig in the round

HARDLY a seat was left unfilled as Maurizio Pollini reached the second stage in his progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas in seven programmes, each of which is being repeated in Paris and Vienna as he goes. His latest instalment comprised no fewer than six sonatas, in which his playing reflected intellectual perception as well as technical brilliance.

He modified the strict chronological sequence to finish

## ■ FESTIVAL

## Maurizio Pollini Festival Hall

with a finely judged account of the universally familiar *Pathétique Sonata*, Op 13; not so bold in attack as some have made it but with a degree of inner passion that gave a sense of magnificence to the work at the outset, and then played the famous slow movement with a welcome momentum as well as feeling.

Pollini preceded this with the two sonatas of Op 14, composed at much the same time but published a little later. Here Beethoven is in debt to Mozart for the classical sobriety and sociable elegance of Op 14 No 1. Rhythmic lilt and disarming sentiment abounded here, and if the Allegretto middle movement was not as fast as Beethoven himself was said to have played it, its simplicity of effect was to be treasured, as was the playful spirit of the finale.

The light-hearted charm Pollini brought to this was redoubled in the second of the sonatas, in G major, where the flowing figuration of the first movement could almost be said to anticipate Chopin, and the responsive ebullience of the finger work was pursued throughout the piece, touch and tone in ideal balance.

The programme had begun with the three sonatas of Op 10 from a year or two earlier, when Beethoven for the most part harped back to previous Classical models while filling the outlines with new ideas. Possibly a piano of Beethoven's time would have sounded less bass-heavy than did some of the keyboard writing, but the playing enriched the character of the music without affectation.

NOEL GOODWIN



Clare Bayley: "It seems that British screenwriters have a particular prestige in Hollywood at the moment. But I get a variety of responses from the studios. I decide not to pitch my story to anyone."

## CLASSICAL

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

## A TOSCANINI SURVEY

Reviewed by Robert Philip

Although Arturo Toscanini ended his conducting career more than 40 years ago, there are more than 100 of his recordings still available. Most of them are in RCA's *Toscanini Collection*, and the great majority of these are from the 1940s and early 1950s, with the NBC Symphony Orchestra. But a number of other recordings, many of them live, are available on other labels.

There are three areas of repertoire for which he was particularly noted: Beethoven, French music and his first love, Italian opera. Toscanini had a reputation in Beethoven of supplying only what was written. This was not literally true, but he does have a very direct, vigorous approach to tempo and rhythm which works best in those symphonies in which Beethoven is himself at his most direct — Nos 3, 5, and 7.

The finest performance of the *Eroica*, with an intense funeral march, is from his 1939 cycle (RCA GD 60269). His 1952 recording of No 5 is very satisfying (RCA GD 60255), but there is a slower, equally good, performance from 1933. This is in a three-disc set of recordings from Toscanini's years with the New York Philharmonic (Pearl GEMMCD 9373).

There are specific composers who benefit from Toscanini's kind of intensity. One of



them is César Franck, whose symphony receives a very urgent performance (Dell'Arte CD DA 9021).

His recordings of Debussy with the NBC Orchestra can seem rather too clear and clinical, but with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1941 *Iberia* and *La Mer* are wonderfully sensuous and atmospheric (RCA GD 60311).

And with the same orchestra he gives a passionate performance of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony* (RCA GD 60312).

But it is in Italian opera that Toscanini excels, notably Verdi's *Falstaff*, in which he is alert to every detail (RCA GD 60251). Best of all are two operas with which he was particularly associated: Verdi's *Otello*, in whose premiere he played the cello (RCA GD 60302), and Puccini's *La Bohème*, whose premiere he conducted under the supervision of the composer in 1896 (RCA GD 60258 E&B 99).

I can think of no finer Christmas present in the operatic centenary year than this set, conducted by the 79-year-old Toscanini in 1946.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 493; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Building a Library returns to Radio 3 (9am) on Saturday, December 28, with Mahler's Symphony No 7.

## CHRISTMAS SHOWS: Jolly Vivian Ellis revival; two famous tales reworked

## Old-fashioned orphan values

Vivian Ellis's is the kind of show you would expect to find in the attic, sandwiched between an old copy of *Peter Pan* and Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*. Dusted down and lovingly resurrected by Dan

Listen to the Wind King's Head, NI

Crawford, this quaint 42-year-old fantasy will always smell of mothballs, however many new songs Ellis might have composed for this production.

Having come to live with their grandmother, three orphans — the mischievous Jeremy and Harriet, and their slightly stuck-up cousin Emma — join forces when adventure beckons in the shape of a magic music box. "You know, Emma, you're really not a bad sort," pronounces Ben McCosker's Jeremy after the children cleverly and skillfully sing of their

BOTH *The Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan* are derived from books, although *The Wizard* (Polka Theatre, Wimbledon) comes to us by way of the MGM film which added the conservative philosophy that East West, the old backyard's best.

*Polka's* lively production by Roman Stefanski, who plays the Scarecrow here four years ago. The action moves swiftly forward, the familiar songs are pleasingly sung, and details are imaginative, funny or both. I liked the use of Remembrance Day poppies to provide the pattern on Dorothy's curtains, and the image of the house caught up in the cyclone — a model whirling at the end of a pole with the lights low — is excellent.

Muppet-like puppets bobbing about in the scenery make the Munchkin scene, often an embarrassment, an amusing preliminary to the Oz adventures, and the



Paula Wilcox and Michael Glynne in Listen to the Wind

different in *When I Grow Up*. "Well, I'm trying to be," says Vicki Taylor's Emma.

The arrival of Cameron Blakey's deliciously malevolent accountant Pearson, threatening Gran with penury and the children with the workhouse, raises the melodramatic stakes. With the help of a friendly but haphazard

Galebird (James Powell), the children seek out the Four Winds to blow them to safety. Cue the heavily reprised *Listen to the Wind*. But our heroes run into a couple of pirates, Scurvy and Ricket, who bring them to Black Thunder Cloud (Pearson, of course) who needs their music box to rule the world ...

## Special, affecting

stage reveals an unexpected depth as the lines of cornfield, fruit trees and emerald-green gates successively slide sideways.

Louise Bolton is an attractive heroine, friendly but never cute, and her good companions are genial company. When the bucket of water is emptied over Olivia Carruthers, the Wicked Witch of the West, she sinks into the floor. Delight (and amazement) from the packed audience.

Out at Bognor the Watermill has no facilities for lifting actors off beds and

sending them flying through windows. Since the one thing that children know about Peter Pan is that he flies, it was disappointing that the video insert Dilys Hammett wanted to use in her production failed to work. The performance I saw,

Samantha Seager's Peter wears a reversed baseball cap, which would have given J.M. Barrie an attack of the vapours, but it's modern boyish after all.

Still, it hardly chimes with the parental prayer, famously Edwardian, uttered before the fight on the ship: "We hope our sons will die like English gentlemen". This is a production for the youngest children, who sing out for praise, as do I. Christopher Holt's doltish wish, as Hook, that he could fly, and his tipsy attempts to do so.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

## Save £2 on China exhibition tickets

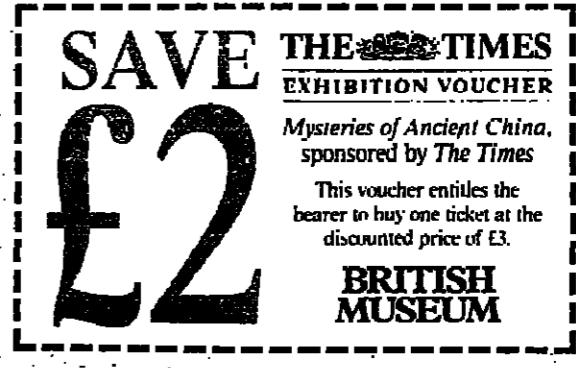


The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams, Seamus Hoar or Jonathan Morland (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-485 6062 (0171-266 5601) or 0171-403 5727 (evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax 0171-631 6394. E-mail greg@qdrec.demon.co.uk (not encoded)



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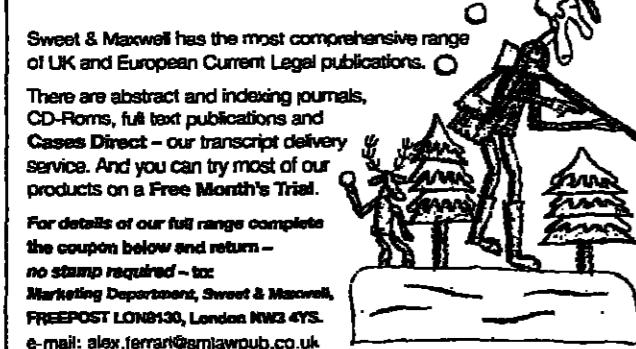
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## LAW

# Give charities a chance

Restrictions on charities need reviewing.  
Alison Dunn explains why

The Christmas season traditionally raises the profile of charities in the public arena, from the sale of charity Christmas cards to carol concerts and to more specific seasonal fund-raising appeals.

But the activities of charities are not confined to Christmas, nor to doing out advent alms. Many charities are keen to sustain their profile in the public arena throughout the year, and to seek actively — through political channels — to tackle the cause of their beneficiaries' needs.

But to what extent can charities legally become political lobbyists, pursuing political activities? The situation is unclear, as was recently highlighted when the Prime Minister expressed concern over the involvement of charities in Real World, a coalition of aid, environmental and social justice groups.

In a letter to Save the Children, John Major accused the fund of signing up to a "largely political statement of objectives and policy proposals". His comments were prompted by Real World's Action Programme for Government, which advocates a £1 billion annual programme of public spending on housing, community projects and overseas aid, an "integrated transport programme", green energy and environmental policies, and a Bill of Rights.

But both Chris Smith, for Labour and Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, have welcomed the coalition agenda; and the Charity Commissioners have declared themselves satisfied that the charity members of the coalition have not overstepped the boundaries.

This focus on the legality of charities pursuing political objectives spotlights the need for clarification in charity law, especially at a time of both regulation of the voluntary sector and pre-election political manoeuvring.

Under the law, charities are prohibited from engaging primarily in a political purpose. The rationale for this prohibition is that a political purpose fails to comply with the requirement of public benefit. The prohibition has some justification. There are many cogent reasons for denying charities the opportunity to take a primary role in the



Private giving to make up shortfalls: is there a danger that charities will find their role too proscribed?

political arena, including the fact that the law ensures donor trust and prevents extreme political groups from gaining legitimacy under the guise of charitable status. It also prevents generous tax advantages being used in questionable political campaigns.

But even if political aims are not being recognised as charitable purposes, charities are nevertheless permitted to undertake a limited degree of political activity.

Under the present law, charities may not be political organisations, nor show outright support for a particular political party, but they may nonetheless be involved in political activities where such activities are ancillary to and in furtherance of the charity's overall charitable purpose.

The caveat clearly leaves room for charities to manoeuvre within the political arena and enables them to bring their experience of the practical consequences of government policy to bear on the democratic process. But the caveat also leaves room for widespread uncertainty over

the boundary of an ancillary political activity. Confusion is compounded by the fact that case law is vague as to acceptable and unacceptable conduct by charities. The Charity Commission has gone some way to rectify this lack of clarity by issuing guidelines on the involvement of charities in the political sphere. These guidelines, although not law in themselves, provide solid markers for trustees concerned to stay within the parameters of the law.

The guidelines cover a range of situations straddling the sphere of political activity and political campaigning, and provide advice on influencing public opinion, supporting or opposing legislation, commenting on public issues and outlining the penalties for unacceptable political conduct by a charity.

The guidelines are valuable as indicators of acceptable conduct. But they do not remedy the underlying, and undermining, uncertainty of charity law. In a practical context, it remains difficult to distinguish between a political purpose and a political conduct by a charity.

A 1989 White Paper proposed such a recommendation because legislation would "have the disadvantage of laying down inflexible rules instead of allowing the law to develop in the light of particular cases" (para 2.44). This is a valid point. But equally valid is the fact that charities have

the ability to assess directly the effectiveness of current Government policy or legislation on important issues such as poverty, education and health.

Even the Charity Commission acknowledges that "the dividing line between proper debate in the public arena and improper political activity is a fine one to judge".

That charities remain uncertain is evident from the recent Report of the Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector. This report admitted that the extent to which charities may contribute to the political arena had been "a frequent issue in the evidence submitted to the Commission".

This lack of clarity in the law is potentially harmful to the wider role that charities play in society. Certainly, explicit rules regarding acceptable political activity in guidelines such as those published by the Charity Commission, or via legislation, would be resisted by many.

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• The author is lecturer in law, Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

## Mandelson surprised

THE controversial MP, Peter Mandelson, the guest speaker at the Society of Labour Lawyers annual general meeting last week, was taken aback by the warm welcome from the group's chairman, James Goudie, QC. "I must say that that is the most neutral introduction I have had for a very long time," Labour's campaign co-ordinator quipped.

Before long, he was on more familiar ground, when he was forced to defend Jack Straw against complaints that the Shadow Home Secretary was concentrating his resources on being tough on crime, at the expense of Tony Blair's pledge to be tough on the causes of crime.

**Video request**  
THE Bar Council is to issue new guidelines to barristers on the measures they should take to ensure any child video evidence they are holding is locked away. The move follows an approach by the CPS, which asked the Bar Council to introduce new rules to protect such videos from getting into the wrong hands.

There is concern that evi-

dence in child abuse cases is being circulated within prisons, although the Criminal Bar Association has emphasised that there is no evidence that barristers have been involved in breaches of security.

**More than equal**  
MANY PEOPLE have been impressed by the Bar Council's drive to stamp out discrimination at the Bar, represented by an equality code issued to chambers earlier this year. Now there are signs that

it is moving on to the offensive by encouraging elements of positive discrimination.

Evidence comes from December's Bar News, the Bar Council's bulletin, in an item urging unsuccessful applicants for Assistant Recorderships to be patient if they want to find out why they have been rejected. The item adds: "Their current exercise is so woman-intensive, the Lord Chancellor's department is not going to have the human resources to deal with the unsuccessful until the new year."

**JUDGES are working even harder than everybody thought. Several circuit judges have pointed out that they do not sit 200 days a year. They have a duty to sit for no fewer than 210 days — which in practice, they say, means many more.**

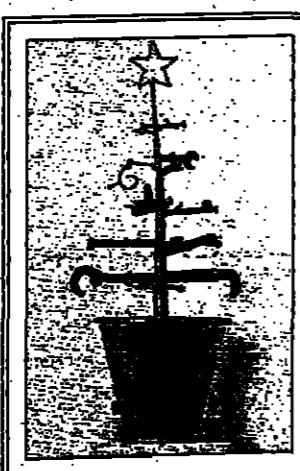
**Mears News**  
APART FROM producing a succession of pithy media fact sheets criticising the policies of Tony Girling, the Law Society President, Martin Mears, Mr Girling's controversial predecessor, has lately been adopting a relatively low profile.

Behind the scenes, however,

he has been busily putting together his own national news magazine, to be published soon.

**SCRIVENOR**

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### The art of Christmas

COLLYER-BRISTOW has commissioned a young contemporary artist to produce an alternative Christmas tree once again. The tree, by Mick Kirby Geddes, a Yorkshire sculptor, is made from welded scrap metal and is on display at the law firm's high-quality art gallery at its Holborn premises.



### Queen's Counsel



● NEXT WEEK: A LOOK BACK AT 1996

## An inspector calls

Sir Edward Coke wrote in his *Institutes of the Laws of England* in 1628 that "a man's house is his castle". Exceptions authorised by Parliament in recent decades have left the castle far from impregnable to officials. But our legal system has required necessary safeguards to protect privacy. It has shared the emotion expressed by Lord Chief Justice Pratt in 1763: "to enter a man's house by virtue of a nameless warrant in order to procure evidence is worse than the Spanish Inquisition". Clause 89 of the Police Bill, now being considered by Parliament, is a threat to the principles of our unwritten constitution.

If enacted, it would confer extensive powers on the police to bug, enter and search premises. Entry on, or interference with, property or with wireless telephony would be lawful if authorised by a Chief Constable (or other relevant person) who thinks it could be of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime, and if the action achieves what cannot reasonably be done by other means.

"Serious crime" is very broadly defined by Clause 89 to mean any crime involving the use of violence, or resulting in substantial financial gain, or conducted by a large number of people in pursuit of a common purpose, or an offence for which a person would be sent to prison for three years or more. It is therefore particularly important to ensure that there are proper safeguards to protect individual rights.

The committee stage debate in the House of Lords at the end of last month shows that there are two fundamental objections to the drafting of Clause 89 which the Government needs to address.

The first concern is that the intrusive action on private property does not need to be authorised by a judge, but can be decided upon by the police alone. As Lord Browne-Wilkinson pointed out during the debate, until now "the only right enjoyed by the State to invade property is under the warrant of a court" (with the exception of action by the security services). In other Commonwealth countries, a prior judicial warrant is recognised to be an indispensable safeguard of individual rights and a necessary check on abuse of power.

To combat serious crime, the police may well need new powers. But such powers must be subject to necessary safeguards. If Clause 89 were to be enacted in its current form, the absence of judicial control and the frustration of professional privilege would lead to inevitable condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights.

All judges should make plain to the Government that they reject the suggestion that their impartiality would be threatened if prior judicial authorisation were required. And all barristers and solicitors should express their disgust at the suggestion that Parliament may authorise the bugging of their premises while they are giving legal advice to clients.

• The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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As a lawyer in the Criminal Appeal Office you have responsibility for the management of applications for leave to appeal against conviction and/or sentence made to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. You will work as part of a team but will have personal responsibility for a caseload.

The Immigration Appeals Authority will provide research assistance to support the high quality of adjudication required in this area, which involves hearing appeals against decisions by the Home Office in respect of immigration, especially claims for political asylum.

You should be a qualified solicitor or barrister. You should be able to demonstrate:

- a good grasp of legal principles
- legal and analytical abilities
- the ability to reason and argue cogently and to make balanced judgements
- the ability to express yourself well in writing
- the ability to produce high quality work quickly
- good interpersonal skills

- (for the IAA) the ability to use IT based sources of information and an interest in Human Rights issues
- (for the CAO) a sound knowledge of and enthusiasm for criminal law

The positions are offered initially on fixed term contracts of two or three years, with the possibility of extension or permanence. Secondments or loans would be considered.

Starting salary is £26,335 plus a recruitment and retention allowance of £1,776 although more might be available for the right candidate.

For an information pack please call our recruitment line on 0171 210 1303 during office hours before 24 December 1996. Application forms and recruitment information are also available in large print and on cassette.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to equality of opportunity in employment for all who are eligible, on the basis of ability, qualifications, and fitness for work. Applications are invited from all qualified individuals irrespective of race, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.



## AMERICAN FOOTBALL: PACKERS CHASE HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

# Cowboys shrug off scandal to shoot for Super Bowl

BY OLIVER HOLT

JUST as tough and about half as endearing, Dallas Cowboys are starting to resemble American football's version of *The Terminator*. Knocked down and dragged through the grinder, disabled temporarily when vital parts are ripped off, the good guys persist in thinking Dallas are down and out. Yet they keep coming back.

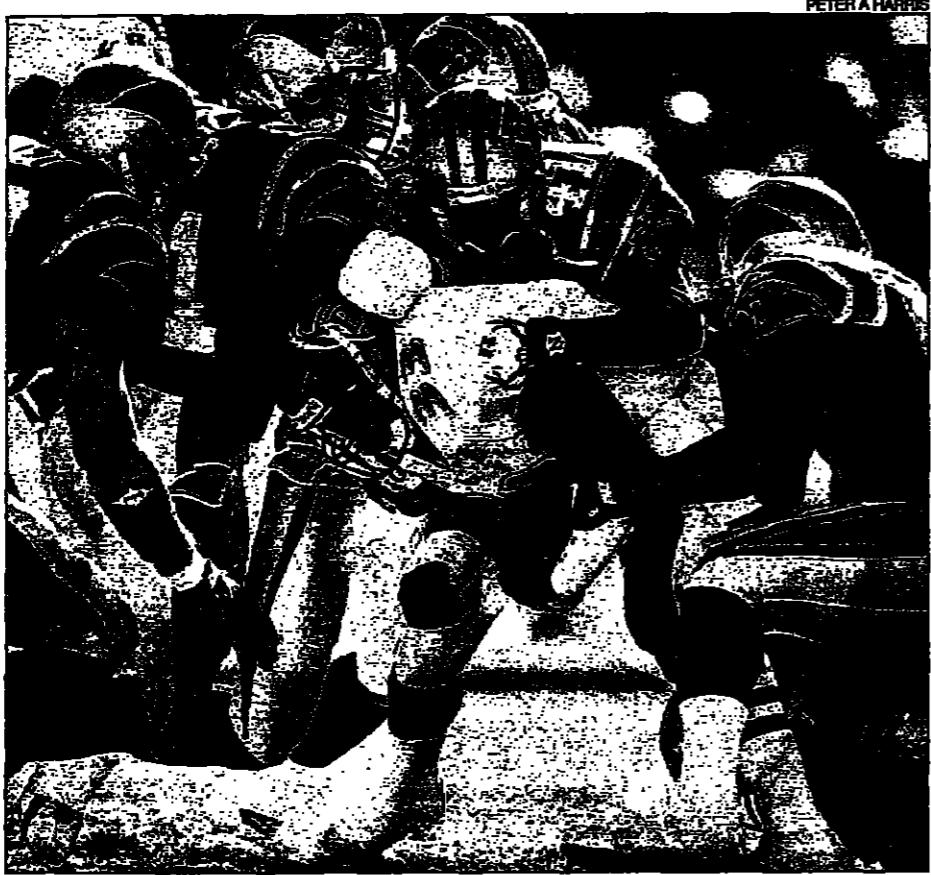
On Sunday, the Cowboys shrugged off the latest scandal to blight their angst-laden year, the suspension of Leon Lett for drug abuse, to beat the much-admired New England Patriots 12-6 in Texas, win their fifth National Football Conference (NFC) eastern division title in succession and qualify for the play-offs.

Despite the loss of Lett, one of the best tacklers in the sport, the Cowboys allowed the most productive offence in the National Football League (NFL) only two field goals. They will have to win on the road if they are to reach a second successive Super Bowl at the end of January, but now that the competition is reaching its knock-out stage, few will bet against them.

Even the Cowboys, though, might struggle in Green Bay in the middle of January and the Packers moved one step closer to clinching home-field advantage in the play-offs on Sunday when they trounced Detroit Lions 31-3 at the Pontiac Silverdome, courtesy of a 92-yard punt return by Desmond Howard and more inspired passing from their quarterback, Brett Favre.

If the Packers slip up against Minnesota next week, then home advantage could pass to either San Francisco 49ers or Carolina Panthers, the surprise team of the year. Both had convincing wins at the weekend.

The Panthers, in only their second year in the NFL, capitalised on their thrilling victory over the 49ers in San Francisco ten days ago with a 27-16 win over Baltimore Ravens in Charlotte to take their berths.



Bam Morris, the Baltimore running back, ploughs into a Carolina roadblock

record for the season to 11 wins and four defeats.

In the American Football Conference (AFC), Denver Broncos welcomed back their quarterback, John Elway, and banished the memories of the recent 41-6 rout by the Packers with a 24-19 win over Oakland Raiders at Mile High Stadium. Elway, who missed the defeat in Green Bay with a sore hamstring, passed for a total of 206 yards to end the Raiders' chances of reaching the play-offs.

The Broncos will be joined in the AFC half of the play-offs by New England and Pittsburgh, while Buffalo, Indianapolis, Kansas City and Jacksonville will have to wait until the end of the regular season on Sunday to discover if they have clinched wild-card berths.

## NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Philadelphia 21 New York Jets 20; Chicago 27 San Diego 14; Cincinnati 27; Baltimore 16; Detroit 3 Green Bay 31; Dallas 12 New England 6; New Orleans 17; Tampa Bay 24; Atlanta 27; St Louis 19; Pittsburgh 15; San Francisco 25; Minnesota 21; Tampa Bay 10; Arizona 27; Washington 26; Denver 10; Oklahoma City 19; Jacksonville 15; Indianapolis 19; Kansas City 19; Seattle 10; San Diego 10; Denver, Monday; San Francisco 6; Atlanta 10; Cincinnati 10; Indianapolis 10; Buffalo 10; New York Jets 10; Miami; Green Bay 9; Minnesota 10; Dallas 10; St Louis 10; Philadelphia 10; Cincinnati 10; Seattle; San Diego 10; Denver, Monday; San Francisco & Detroit.							
American Conference Eastern division							
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1 New England	10	5	0	265	291	10	5
Buffalo	9	5	0	265	241	9	5
Indianapolis	9	6	0	264	293	9	6
Jacksonville	5	10	0	251	422	5	10
Detroit	1	14	0	251	422	1	14
Central division							
Pittsburgh	10	5	0	330	239	10	5
Jacksonville	8	7	0	308	318	8	7
Green Bay	7	8	0	341	247	7	8
Baltimore	4	11	0	350	417	4	11
Western division							
Denver	13	2	0	381	298	13	2
Kansas City	9	6	0	288	203	9	6
Oakland	7	8	0	254	358	7	8
Seattle	6	9	0	250	352	6	9
National Conference Eastern division							
W	L	T	F	A	W	L	
1 Dallas	12	3	0	276	213	12	3
Philadelphia	9	6	0	334	323	9	6
Washington	8	7	0	281	358	8	7
Azores	7	8	0	281	358	7	8
NY Giants	6	9	0	220	274	6	9
Central division							
1 Green Bay	12	3	0	418	200	12	3
St Louis	10	5	0	288	271	10	5
Arizona	7	8	0	284	341	7	8
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	187	274	5	10
Western division							
1 Pittsburgh	12	3	0	418	200	12	3
Jacksonville	8	7	0	308	318	8	7
Green Bay	7	8	0	341	247	7	8
St Louis	6	9	0	250	358	6	9
Atlanta	3	12	0	292	442	3	12
New Orleans	3	12	0	216	323	3	12
5 secured divisionals							
5 secured conference odds							
(Not including last night's match: Miami v Buffalo)							

(Saturday December 21)

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10 Greenwich v Chester

11 Gillingham v Charlton

12 Hull City v QPR

13 Ipswich Town v Middlesbrough

14 Liverpool v Nottingham Forest

15 Reading v Port Vale

16 Rotherham v Plymouth

17 Shrewsbury Town v Bristol City

18 Southampton v Birmingham City

19 Swindon Town v Macclesfield

20 Tranmere Rovers v Wrexham

21 Wednesday v Wrexham

22 Yeovil Town v Chesterfield

23 Birmingham City v Luton

24 Blackpool v Torquay

25 Bradford v Doncaster

26 Bristol City v Wrexham

27 Cheltenham Town v Wrexham

28 Colchester Utd v Wrexham

29 Coventry v Wrexham

30 Doncaster Rovers v Wrexham

31 Exeter City v Wrexham

32 Fleetwood Town v Wrexham

33 Grimsby Town v Wrexham

34 Hartlepool United v Wrexham

35 Leyton Orient v Wrexham

36 Macclesfield Town v Wrexham

37 Morecambe v Wrexham

38 Notts County v Wrexham

39 Oldham Athletic v Wrexham

40 Shrewsbury Town v Wrexham

41 Stockport County v Wrexham

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## RACING

# BHB expects chorus of disapproval

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) is bracing itself for hostile exchanges with a group of racehorse owners at the annual forum of its Industry Committee in London today. But the trade organisations of owners, trainers and breeders are expected to let the forum pass without endorsing the spinster group.

Questions from the floor will be dominated by owners unhappy at aspects of BHB policy and its failure to secure tax concessions in the Chancellor's recent Budget. As one interested observer put it last night: "It could develop into a buntight and we do not want to be a part of that."

Particular attention will focus on the BHB's insistence that all submissions to government should seek bookmaker approval. The BHB's chairman, Lord Wakeham, reiterated the position in the wake of

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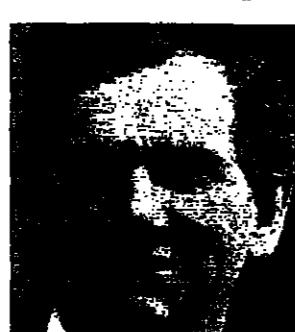
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FOOTBALL: KLINSMANN MAY FOLLOW ERIKSSON TO EWOOD PARK

# Revolutionary ready to march on Ribble Valley

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

**W**hen a man has lived for 15 years in Mediterranean climates and has helped the wealthy club owners of Lisbon, Rome, Florence and Genoa to spend their millions, what on earth could be the charms of an old Lancastrian cotton town such as Blackburn?

The confirmation yesterday morning that Blackburn Rovers will indeed have Sven Goran Eriksson to manage their team from the end of this season, or before, was followed last night by speculation that he might hire Jürgen Klinsmann, of Bayern Munich, to assist him on the field in reclaiming the glories that Jack Walker's millions brought to Ewood Park.

Klinsmann, so swiftly back from Lisbon himself after Germany had drawn 0-0 there in a World Cup qualifying game on Saturday, has repeated in public his growing despair with Germany's lead-

He and Giovanni Trapattoni, the Italian who coaches Bayern, do not speak the same sporting language. Klinsmann is born on attack, Trapattoni is a thoroughbred of defence. Given that Blackburn have announced that more of Walker's money will be spent in anticipation of Eriksson's arrival, the club would do well to review a tape of Germany's visit to the Stadium of Light.

Klinsmann looked tired and relied on his young partner, Fredi Bobic, to do most of his

running. Nottingham Forest have reportedly been working on a £50,000-per-week offer to the Germany captain. Everton are also more than interested.

British spectators enjoyed his company once and, at 32,



Eriksson in control

## Jones fails to see funny side of fine

**VINNIE JONES**, the Wimbledon midfield player, has been fined a week's wages by the FA Carling Premiership club after a supposedly humorous newspaper article backfired on him (Russell Kempson writes). Jones has also donated his £2,000 fee for the article, which jokily assessed the characters of his team-mates, to the players' pool.

Jones missed Wimbledon's 1-0 win against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday. Instead, he played for Wales in their World Cup qualifying match against Turkey in Cardiff, which ended in a goalless

draw. He returned to training yesterday and apologised to his colleagues. "It was meant to be a joke, a Christmas, pull-your-leg stunt," he said, "but it's gone wrong. I can only say that I am deeply sorry."

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, declined to comment. At the weekend, when the article appeared, he labelled it "disgusting". Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, said that the club now accepted that Jones intended his comments to be treated light-heartedly.

"Wimbledon play with ten men and Vinnie Jones."

Hammam said. "In many respects, they are ahead of him from a technical and footballing angle. What Vinnie provides is leadership."

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is to hold an inquiry into crowd trouble at the Bristol City v Bristol Rovers Nationwide League second division derby at Ashton Gate on Sunday. Spectators invaded the pitch after Rovers had equalised in injury time and, at the end, several Rovers players had to run for the tunnel to escape pursuing City supporters. The Football Association is launching a separate inquiry.

Eriksson is possibly aware of the serenity of the Ribble Valley that surrounds Blackburn. Or there may be other enticements to a man already wealthy through his travels in coaching. Maybe the phrase "where there's much there's brass" appeals to this Swede whose English is perfect. Or maybe it is the challenge of helping English football to come out of the dark ages, the challenge that has already brought Ruud Gullit and Arsène Wenger to London.

Three foreigners here to coach. Their task ahead was, as Eriksson often said, to coax "commitment" from technically gifted individuals. Here, indubitably, commitment exists in extremis. It is the knowledge of footballers on the continent, the ability to buy players who should be beacons of light to native, physically-inclined workers, that puts these newcomers in the millionaire pay bracket.

Eriksson comes highly recommended by David Platt, who coincidentally, trying to rediscover his form under Wenger at Arsenal. "I thought Eriksson was absolutely superb." Platt said of his time as a Sampdoria player. "Win, lose or draw, he would shake every player's hand; he had respect for the players, the way he got his ideas across. He was

meanwhile, committed as he is to Sampdoria, he enjoyed a breathtaking victory on the eve of Blackburn's admission that his future was theirs. At the San Siro, Sampdoria came from 3-1 down to beat Internazionale 4-3. That provoked howls of abuse, the hurling of obscenities and stones in the direction of Roy Hodgson, Inter's English coach, who turned down an offer from Blackburn before Bath's men turned to Eriksson.

It will not be easy for Eriksson to change the physical ways, or the present struggles, of Blackburn, nor does he venture into England with quite the acceptance that was already his when Italy called.

Eriksson, should he succeed in this island, will be the first Swede since the Vikings to do so.

□ George Weah, the Fifa World Footballer of the Year, was given a six-match ban by Uefa, European football's governing body, yesterday for headbutting Jorge Costa, of FC Porto, in AC Milan's European Cup Champions League match last month.

Wimbledon play with ten men and Vinnie Jones."

teaching career last summer to become a full-time employee of Bath, said. Preparation of the cup side now devolves upon Andy Robinson, the flanker, who is still a member of the playing squad, and John Palmer, the former centre.

It has already been a difficult season for Bath, whose primary ambition — victory in the Heineken Cup — subsided when they lost in the quarter-finals to Cardiff. After three defeats, their league championship is in the balance and the gloss was removed from their outstanding display against Harlequins on December 7 by accusations of rowdiness in the city centre the same evening, when police had to call out to a cafe.

Meanwhile, Newbury must play their postponed fourth-round Pilkington Cup tie with Lydney at Regentshome tonight, the winner of which meets Leicester on Saturday. The Rugby Football Union turned down an appeal for a further postponement by Ashton, who gave up his



Facing up to the disappointment of not winning the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award on Sunday night was made easier for Steven Redgrave, right, yesterday, when he was presented with the Sports Writers' Association's award for Sportsman of the Year. The veteran oarsman, who won his fourth Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in the summer, could have been forgiven for seeing double by the end of the ceremony, when, just as at the BBC event, he was named in the Team of the Year with Matthew Pinsent, left, his colleague in the coxed pairs.

## RUGBY UNION

### Ashton's future in doubt

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A SMOKESCREEN surrounded last night the immediate future of one of the leading figures at Bath, English rugby union's champion club. A statement appeared to confirm the status of Brian Ashton, the chief coach, yet the very fact that it had to be made cast doubt over his long-term future.

In the week before Bath begin the defence of the Pilkington Cup — against London Irish on Saturday — Ashton is on a week's holiday while John Hall, the director of rugby, would only issue a terse statement confirming that the coach, who was backs coach to England in the mid-1980s, "remains an employee of Bath Rugby Club".

There has been speculation that the relationship between the two men, once that of coach and player, had dwindled now that both are involved in management. "At this moment in time, Bath and I have not parted company," Ashton, who gave up his

teaching career last summer to become a full-time employee of Bath, said. Preparation of the cup side now devolves upon Andy Robinson, the flanker, who is still a member of the playing squad, and John Palmer, the former centre.

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Newbury, nine of whose players have been affected over the last fortnight by a serious bacterial skin infection.

Five of those players have not recovered, and Newbury may be forced to field second-choice tight-five forwards. The original postponement from November 23 was because the club's players were required for the RFU divisional programme, while the union's dispute with the leading clubs was at its height.

The Scottish Rugby Union has agreed to play South Africa at Murrayfield next December and will send a party to South Africa this summer. A five-match programme will coincide with the British Isles tour, which will deprive the Scots of leading players, while the South Africans — who left for home yesterday following their successful tour of Argentina, France and Wales — will return to Britain to play England on November 29 and Scotland on December 6.

## Splash for cash

**SWIMMING:** Britain is demanding that top swimmers be paid to attend the second European short-course championships if the event is to be staged in Sheffield. The city is the only bidder for the 1998 event and, with the Amateur Swimming Association, is insisting that the European Swimming League offer prizes to winners in all 38 events to ensure the best possible entry.

## Easy ride

**RUGBY UNION:** The draw for the sixth round of the Swalec Cup gave Pontypridd, the holders, an easy entry to the competition. They must travel to Llanelli, the junior West Welsh club. There are two all first-division ties, between Newport and Cardiff, and Caerphilly and Llanelli.

**DRAMA:** Rhymey or Armetted v Treorchy; Landoway v Pyre; Pontypridd v Pencoed; South Wales Police v Blaenavon or Maesteg; Vale of Glamorgan v Cwmbran; Glyn Gof; Vale Poole v Pontypool; Pontypridd v Cammarche Castle, Swansea v Dungleath; Newent v Castle Whitland or Cwmcarn; Cross Keys v Cardiff Institute or Abertillery; Chepstow v Abergavenny; Neath v Abertynor; Ebbw Vale v Abergavenny; Nantwich v Bridgend v Newcastle; Porthcawl v Pontypridd.

Ties to be played January 25

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

## THE TIMES

# Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV



**The Times** offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed with the aim of making travelling with children a happier and more comfortable experience for everyone in the car.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate the psychology of family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour on long car journeys, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful family travel.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the

risk of irritation. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the children's personal stereos on long car journeys. Safety features include dual air bags, side impact beams, crumple zones and an impact energy absorbing body frame structure.

### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win this superb vehicle, collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in *The Times* between December 14-21, 1996. Post them with the completed entry form to:

**The Times/Toyota Picnic Competition, Ashtree Court, London EC8S 8NG.**

The closing date is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

**THE TIMES**  
TOYOTA  
picnic  
TOKEN 3

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. The car to be won is the Picnic GL (invisel) and cannot be exchanged for a different model or cash alternative. 2. The car will be presented direct to the driver, except for insurance and road tax, which will be the responsibility of the winner. 3. The winner may be required to be photographed for publicity purposes. 4. Acceptance of all the rules is a condition of entry. 5. For the name of the winner, please send a SAE to the address above. 6. The car will be insured at the manufacturer's nearest Toyota dealership. 7. The competition is open to all *Times* readers over 17 years of age. 8. The winner will be the person who correctly completes the competition question and who, in the opinion of the independent judges, submits the best 3x3 break. 9. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

**Answers on page 38**

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand was played by Vittorio di Silvio, of Italy, in the Olympiad Mixed Teams.

Dealer South

Love all IMPs

+10742  
VA  
+KQJ105  
#432

+4983  
VKQJ10  
#63  
+K75

+5  
W  
A  
S  
E

98762  
9872  
+J109

+AKQ6  
#543  
#A4  
#AQ6

Contract: Six Spades by South

Lead: King of hearts

South opened One Club and West overcalled One Heart. After a negative double by North, North-South found their way to Six Spades.

How would you set about the contract after winning the ace of hearts? You have three tricks in spades, one in hearts, five in diamonds and one in clubs. That means you need to take two heart ruffs in dummy to make up the twelve tricks. You also have to ensure that you have drawn trumps before you run the diamonds.

In a pairs event, you might play a club to the ace at trick two, ruff a heart, diamond to the ace, ruff a heart, and finally play a spade to the ace and draw trumps. That way you would make thirteen tricks if the spades break 3-2.

You will find the 4-1 break makes the hand unmanageable on that line of play. At

teams scoring you should ensure you make your contract, and Di Silvio solved the problem neatly. At trick two he ducked a spade. He now had three entries to his hand to ruff two hearts, and was still in control to draw all the trumps before running the diamonds.

In the US Gold Cup final, held in Peebles at the weekend, Andrew Dyson's team (Glyn Liggins, Peter Crouch, Steve Lodge, Graham Kirby, John Armstrong) beat Andrew Macnair's team (Tim Rees, Graham Horsley, Roger Gibbons, Alan Kay, Jerry Cope) by 157 IMPs to 89.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

By Philip Howard

FLEMENSFIRTH

- a. The North Sea
- b. Entertaining an outcast
- c. A rout

GROMWELL

- a. George Cromwell
- b. A breed of pony
- c. A medicinal herb

FINGAN

- a. A coffee cup
- b. To forge a signature
- c. A Highland bard

GANTELLAGE

- a. A naval crane
- b. Wine duty
- c. Arable land

Answers on page 38

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Level contest

The elite tournament at Las Palmas continues with an even field. At the halfway stage 50 per cent of the players share first place and only 1½ points divides first from last.

In the fifth round Karpov and Kasparov played a quiet draw which enabled Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster, to move into the joint lead.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk  
Black: Vladimir Kramnik  
Las Palmas, December 1996

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6

2 c4 g6

3 Nc3 Bg7

4 e4 d5

5 Nge2 0-0

6 f3 c5

</

Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1996

## Goalkeepers take their chance in the spotlight

**GHOSTED** autobiographies were once the staple diet of sports publishing. "I take 25 days to write a book," one ghost proclaimed proudly. "Ten days taping and then a chapter a day for 14 days." It showed.

Nowadays, football's ghosts are more upmarket. This season's two heavyweight autobiographies, by Kenny Dalglish and Jack Charlton, are ghosted by, respectively, Henry Winter, of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Peter Byrne, of *The Irish Times*, a whimsical stylist.

Yet both have the main problem of ghosts, to retain the flavour of the man. Perhaps surprisingly, Byrne, an Irishman, makes the better fist of it, capturing Charlton's trenchant style. Winter went to school and played football in Scotland, but even that proved little help in recapturing Dalglish's more staccato one-liners on the page.

Between them, though, Dalglish and Charlton have been at the centre of football in the past 30 years and their tales

Fortunately, the eccentric selections in the Dream Team series never have to play, but they make great interviews, particularly Jim White's *Always in the Running*, on Manchester United. White is a good interviewer and a beguiling writer, but what can you do with someone who selects Willie Morgan as a wing back and says that the manager who gave Neil Ruddock an England cap is a great judge of a player?

Jeremy Novick, the author of *Winning Their Spurs* in the same series, would never make that mistake about Terry Venables. His book, with its preponderance of early Eighties players, might better be titled *The Nearly Team*, as opposed to Alex Fynn's *Dream On*, on Tottenham last season. Informative, but I preferred the story of football on the broadside, Derrick Allsop's tale of Rochdale's season, *Kicking in the Wind*.

However, for Tottenham supporters, there is outstanding nostalgia, the story of perhaps the greatest ever English club side, Danny Blanchflower's double-winners. Of the other excellent offerings, *Wartime Wanderers*, the story of the Bolton team that joined up en masse and fought the war (1939-45) that is together, and *Bogota Bandit*, the story of Charlie Mitten's trip to play in Colombia, also tap into football's new and delightful nostalgia market.

In the end, the book of the year is Nick Hazelwood's study of a strange breed, the goalkeeper. It is thin on the greats, but from nightmares to betting scams, from Willie Rouke to René Higuita, it is riveting reading.

□ *In the Way — Goalkeepers A Head Apart*, by Nick Hazelwood (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Bogota Bandit — The Outlaw Life of Charlie Mitten: Manchester United's Penalty King*, by Richard Adamson (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Wartime Wanderers — A Football Team at War*, by Tim Purcell and Mike Gethin (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *The Double*, by Ken Ferris (Two Heads Publishing, £9.99).

□ *Kicking in the Wind*, by Derrick Allsop (Headline, £14.99).

□ *Jack Charlton: The Autobiography*, with Peter Byrne (Partridge Press, £16.99).

□ *Dalglish: My Autobiography*, with Henry Winter (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99).

□ *Soccer Czars*, by Jason Tomas (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Think I'll Manage*, by George Sik (Headline, £15.99).

□ *Dream On*, by Alex Fynn and H. Davidson (Simon & Schuster, £14.99).

□ *Always in the Running* (Dream Team series), by Jim White (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Winning Their Spurs* (Dream Team series), by Jeremy Novick (Mainstream, £14.99).

PETER BALL

reflect that Dalglish writes angrily about Heysel, movingly about Hillsborough and openly about the leaving of Liverpool. Charlton, as always, is forceful. He is revealing about his relationship with his brother, Bobby, but is perhaps at his best talking about his childhood.

Autobiographies apart, football publishing is thriving. This year there is perhaps no "great book", such as *Football Against the Enemy*, but there is a wealth of good ones. Managers, chairman and goalkeepers get a book apiece of varying quality. The one on chairman, *Soccer Czars*, talks to the first XI, except Martin Edwards of Manchester United, and Sir John Hall of Newcastle United, and gets some fascinating material, but Jason Tomas is too soft on the raging egos on view; George Sik, a psychologist, also has some interesting interviews, but he does not get to Alex Ferguson, Dalglish, George Graham, Kevin Keegan or Roy Evans, which undermines his book, *I Think I'll Manage*.



Dalglish: heavyweight

## The day Todd was taken on terror ride

IT IS a relief to learn that even Mark Todd, the most gifted three-day-event rider the sport has seen, has experienced the terror of being run away with on a horse. It happened when the dual Olympic gold-medal winner was asked to event a friend's Grade A showjumper. As soon as they set out on the cross country, the horse took off. "Nothing has been more frightening," Todd said.

A more typical picture of Todd sitting in perfect balance as his horse soars over a huge log adorns the cover of *One-Day Evening*, a definitive guide to the sport, written by Todd with Genevieve Murphy. The book, well-illustrated with pictures by Kit Houghton of the author and his wife, Carolyn, gives advice on all aspects of eventing from buying the right horse to preparations for his first event.

Keeping in a rhythm is, we are told, the key to successful cross-country riding. Todd, whose international career began in 1980 when he won Badminton at his first attempt, thinks many riders get in "too much of a state" about not being able to see a stride. It would be far more profitable for them to concentrate on keeping a rhythm to the fence and avoid interfering with the horse when he jumps it."

Todd, who appears to see a stride when a field's distance from the fence, also emphasises the importance of flat-work. When he started in the sport in his native New Zealand, he "put up" with the dressage in order to get on with the exciting part of riding across country. Yet he changed his mind when he realised he would only be successful if he improved his dressage. Now getting a horse to go

correctly on the flat is as natural to him as winning.

Any equestrian household would benefit from Judith Draper's invaluable reference manual, *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*. Aspects of stable management, from shoeing and clipping to exercise and grooming, are described in detail.

□ *One-Day Evening*, by Mark Todd with Genevieve Murphy (Aurum Press, £15.99).

□ *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*, by Judith Draper (Lorenz Books, £16.99).

□ *A Modern Horse Herbal*, by Hilary Page Self (Kenilworth Press, £16.99).

JENNY MACARTHUR



Seles tells of her depression and recurring nightmares as she fought her way back to the top after being stabbed

## Serving aces en route to a fortune

DURING the festive season, all thoughts of sport and fitness are usually put firmly to one side, but in the annual crop of tennis books, there is enough to keep even the most devout couch potato in touch with the game, even if picking up a racket and playing seems out of the question.

For those whose playing days are a long-distant memory, there is *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*. Now there are people who love Lloyd and people who loathe him, but none can get away from the fact that he is an inveterate enthusiast and workaholic.

The book covers Lloyd's rise from promising junior to reasonable player to multi-millionaire. Written by Richard Evans, it describes how Lloyd built up his empire of tennis clubs from scratch and eventually sold them to Whitbread for a fortune. In between, it gives the Lloyd view of

business — and how to make it big — of tennis and of life in general.

It is worth the read. The British Davis Cup captain — and a chap who owns three Ferraris — is not in the habit of pulling his punches.

Monica Seles also has her own view of the world. Up until 1993 that world consisted of doing everything in her power to be the best tennis player alive. Then, in Hamburg, Günther Parache stopped her in her tracks, stabbing her in the back during a quarter-final match, and consigned her to more than two years in the wilderness as she struggled against the injury, depression and recurring nightmares.

*Monica: From Fear to Victory*, written with Nancy Ann Richardson, is the account of how Seles came back from that day in Hamburg. It is, at times, a

remarkably self-indulgent tome, but does at least explain why it took Seles so long to come to terms with what had happened and how that battle still affects her.

*The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996* also has mention of Seles.

This day-by-day record of the championships is written by John Parsons with pictures from some of the best tennis photographers on the circuit. It is a valuable addition to any tennis buff's shelves.

In the same vein, *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L Scott, the editor of *Tennis Week*, hopes to provide the same sort of record for all four grand slam events. The book gives an overview of the four big tournaments of the year. It is available at specialist tennis bookshops.

Much as it galls a journalist to say it, a picture can say a

thousand words and for any tennis enthusiast *Visions of Tennis* is a great present.

□ *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*, by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £17.99).

□ *Monica: From Fear to Victory*, Monica Seles with Nancy Ann Richardson (Harper Collins, £14.99).

□ *The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996*, by John Parsons (Hazelton, £19.99).

□ *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L Scott (available from The Tennis Bookshop, West Gate, Moyle Court, Nr Ringwood, Hants, 01425 490518, £35 plus postage and packing).

□ *Visions of Tennis*, produced by Allsport (Quiller Press, £16.95).

ALIX RAMSAY

## No passes in volume on specialist knowledge

WHAT a pity that television's *Mastermind* series ends next year and no further applicants will be considered. *Cycling: Facts and Feats* would have been an ideal primer for anyone seeking high points in the specialist subject category.

Jeremy Evans has researched his subject well, laying down a solid foundation in the opening section with a mix of information about the evolution of the bicycle from its beginnings in 1861 and, seven years later, cycle racing, to the present day.

Brevity is the keynote of Evans's style throughout, using a multitude of four- or five-liners to present a fascinating history of the fastest, the longest, the highest and other categories. Some achievements recorded might be considered freakish or unnecessary (in May 1990, a Peter Rosendahl rode a unicycle backwards for 74.75 kilometres in 9hr 25min), but the compiler has more to his bow than lightweight information.

Also highly readable is William Fotheringham's *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*. The author's canvas is broad and will appeal to all levels of achievement.

□ *Cycling: Facts and Feats*, by Jeremy Evans (Guinness Publishing, £13.99).

□ *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*, by William Fotheringham (A & C Black, £13.99).

PETER BRYAN

## Watered-down account of poolside dramas

IF YOU want to seek out a sporting fairytale, dip into *Gold*, the biography of Michelle Smith — but go cautiously. This is the story of the 26-year-old who made giant strides in Atlanta to become a triple Olympic champion and unleash a tide of jubilation in Ireland that not even Jack Charlton and his lads could have hoped for.

Written by Cathal Dervan, a journalist, in collaboration with Smith, the book offers a romantic view of its subject and her immense progress after her coaching was taken over by the man she was to marry, Eric de Bruin. The Dutch discus thrower became her mentor after the 1992 Olympic Games and was suspended from athletics for four years in 1993 after he tested positive for steroids.

Smith reasserts her oft-quoted view that her success is solely the result of hard work. The book does not deal very much with the drugs controversy in Atlanta or offer evidence to support De Bruin's account is watered-down and sickly sweet.

Smith's contention that he was an innocent victim of drugs testing.

The book alleges that American journalists were alone in questioning how Smith had achieved a progression like no other in the history of her sport. In truth, such issues were raised by swimmers, coaches, medical

experts and journalists from dozens of nations and had been raised long before Atlanta. The question of whether Smith received medical help was put to her forcibly in Atlanta, even though she has never tested positive for drugs.

Dervan's account is watered-down and sickly sweet.

□ *Gold — a triple champion's story*, Michelle Smith, with Cathal Dervan, (Mainstream Publishing Company, £14.99).

CRAIG LORD

## Squaring up to big issue in the ring

THE question of the validity of boxing as a sport is never far from our minds and comes sharply into focus every time a tragedy happens in the ring. At such times, most of us shake our heads, have recriminations, applaud new safety measures and carry on as we are. But a growing number of people are wondering whether it does credit to a civilized society to allow such a brutal sport to flourish.

So we must thank Hugh McIlvanney for tackling the subject head-on in his book, *McIlvanney on Boxing*. It is a brilliant essay that marshals the arguments of both sides in the boxing debate.

McIlvanney needs no introduction because he is well-known as the finest writer in the world on boxing and so what he says here is worth the consideration of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the boxing lobby.

In his book, which is a collection of his articles in the *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times* from 1966 to the present day, he gives a warning against the sloganising of the BMA and the smugness of those who profit from the game.

Most readers of *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times* will be familiar with the articles, but

they are worth reading again.

The book is in two parts. The first covers the golden years of boxing in the 1970s, the second, from the 1980s to the present.

The outstanding piece is still McIlvanney's account of the events that led to the tragedy of Johnny Owen in Los Angeles.

If McIlvanney's book is for general consumption, the reissue of the Sugar Ray Robinson story by Dave Anderson will be

welcomed by boxing fans, particularly the older ones.

Robinson held the attention of fans for a quarter of a century from 1940. He had 202 contests, winning 109 of them on knockouts.

It is refreshing to find in these days of braggarts how much he respected his opponents. He said of his defeat by Randolph Turpin: "I was beaten by a better man."

□ *McIlvanney on Boxing*, by Hugh McIlvanney (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).

□ *Sugar Ray: The Sugar Ray Robinson Story*, by Sugar Ray Robinson with Dave Anderson (Robson Books Ltd, £10.99).

SRIKUMAR SEN

referred the World Cup final last year, in conversation with an established author in Derek Robinson, has produced an enjoyable ramble through the rulebook in *Rugby — A Referee's Guide*. It is a "what if" book, in that Robinson paints scenarios and Morrison offers the official — and sometimes unofficial — response. As an adjunct, Mike Mortimer, the Leicester forward who became a referee, has penned *Rugby Law Explained*, a series of articles which have appeared in match programmes at Welford Road.

Autobiographies are thinner on the ground this year — Scott Hastings, that ebullient centre, is one of the few, while Jonathan Davies is as swift on the mark with *Code Breaker* as he was on

DAVID HANDS

Shayla & 150

# Hill shines brightest in galaxy of stars

**J**ohn Inverdale was right — it was just what Sundays were made for. Unless, that is, you happened to be a half-Welsh Chelsea supporter with an inexplicable interest in rowing. But enough about me.

Inverdale's perfect Sunday was BBC all the way. It started with live coverage of Wales versus South Africa in *Rugby Special*, continued with the new season of *Ski Sunday* and then, after a suitable break for refreshments, got really serious with *Sports Review of the Year 1996*.

My more pragmatic version was to stay at Cardiff Arms Park until the score got embarrassing, then switch to Sunderland against Chelsea on *Sky* ... until the score got embarrassing, and then have a bit of a rest.

Having caught enough of Eurosport's on-off coverage from Val d'Isère over the weekend to know that the



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

downhill had not gone according to plan (or indeed at all), Hazel Irvine and Julian Tutt could wait for another day. As a result, I had slightly longer to wait than Inverdale for *Sports Review* to come along.

Time to reflect on the myriad injustices that lay ahead. Given the BBC's recent track record with viewers' polls, my hero for *Sports Personality of the Year* was the night when Tony Blair, with Patricia Routledge coming in a close second for her performance in *Hefty Wainwright Investigates*. The British sporting public — to nobody's great surprise — agreed to differ, according to Damon Hill poll position.

Hill figured third in my personal top three television highlights of the year — all of which, for some reason, took place in the middle of the night. First was the night Michael Johnson ran fast all the way in the 200 metres at Atlanta on BBC1; second was

Evander Holyfield turning pay-as-you-view into pay-as-you-cheer on Sky and third was the night when Hill finally let the nation go back to bed smiling, which I watched on both BBC1 and Eurosport. All three of them were in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, with the two Americans being joined by the Canadian sprinter, Donovan Bailey, as the overseas guests of honour. The BBC had clearly pulled out all the stops.

Some good sport must have taken place during daytime this year, but — apart from Redgrave and Pintos' victory seen through binoculars

on a hospitality television at Lord's — it all seemed to have become something of a blur. Never mind, Des Lynam, Steve Rider, Sue Barker and a host of BBC videotape editors were about to put that right. They did.

Cleverly, they began with Barry Davies's stirring reprise of Euro 96 and after that ... well, the evening went gently downhill, in an enjoyable sort of way. It even survived Frank Skinner and David Baddiel joining The Lightning Seeds and assorted schoolchildren to give us a live rendition of *Football's Coming Home*. As I covered behind the sofa in

embarrassment, I wondered what Evander Holyfield was making of it.

Neither Laura Davies nor Nick Faldo were in the audience, so there went their outside chances of winning. Tim Henman was, but his winning would have been as big a surprise as rediscovering that Richard Krajicek had won Wimbledon. Was Barker about that?

Having hit another well-engineered high with the presentation of a cake to birthday boy Frankie Dettori, the evening ground almost to a halt as we returned to the medal desert that was the Atlanta Olympic Games. It was rescued by a wonderful double-handed interview with Johnson and Bailey. Roger Black joined them later and yes, Des, it was the nearest he had got to Michael all year.

Shortly afterwards, it was the nearest Frank Bruno got to a genuine heavyweight

champion all year, when he presented a tactful joint overseas personality of the year to Holyfield and Johnson. Bruno would later pick up his own lifetime achievement award, together with a signed football for his surprise success in "the funny", which this year was a penalty shoot-out featuring Peter Shilton in goal and Jimmy Hill wearing an unwise referee's strip. According to Lynam, this part of the programme is a favourite with us television critics. Can't think why.

Jonathan Edwards did the honours with the envelopes, but the suspense died when he announced that the runner-up trophy had gone to a four-times Olympic gold medal-winner. As I said, not a good day for half-Welsh, Chelsea supporters with an inexplicable interest in rowing ...

□ This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

John Hopkins on the continued domination of Austrian skiers in Val d'Isère

## Knauss makes a giant impression

WHATEVER the discipline, the one certainty in the Alps here in France these past couple of days has been that the Austrians will dominate it and leave the Swiss, French and Italians floundering in their ski tracks. Austrians took four of the first five places in the super-giant slalom race here yesterday, having swept the first four places in the men's downhill the previous day. In skiing, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Hans Knauss, a 25-year-old Austrian, was the winner with his team-mate and countryman, Günther Mader, in second place. Steve Locher, of Switzerland, prevented a clean sweep by the Austrians, for whom Paarick Ortlieb was fourth and Christian Mayer fifth.

Knauss is considered a good technical skier who has his eye on winning the World Cup super-giant slalom competition. "Anything else is extra," Knauss said.

As he had won in Vaillore last year, this was his second victory in the event on French snow. He completed the 2.1-kilometre course in 1min 23.69sec, beating Mader by 0.03sec.

The secret is judging the risks," Graham Bell, the leading Great Britain skier, said after he had patently failed to do that by crashing out as early as the tenth turn.

"You've got to risk it in super-G, because there is no training run. You only have one go at it so you've got to go for it if you want to go quickly, but the difficulty is making sure you don't take too great a risk."

For the second day running, the weather smiled on this



Knauss confirms the credibility of his challenge with his super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Alessandro Trovati

Alpine village, which contains sufficient old architecture to offset the shock of the new, something that the nearby resort of Tignes has failed to do.

And for the second successive day, Luc Alphand, the engaging Frenchman who seems able to talk in almost any European language, was

well adrift of the winner's podium. This was less of a surprise in the super giant slalom than in the downhill, his rival and a man he says he dislikes had just skied and, with a time of 1min 23.69sec

made into third place. An edge entered Alphand's voice. "I really hope someone comes and pins Ortlieb from third place," he said. When Locher's time flashed up on the board and revealed that he had done just that, Alphand thrust his arm into the air and said "yes" vehemently.

So the World Cup circus moves from France to Italy, to Madonna di Campiglio today, when Alberto Tomba makes his entrance for the season in a

comparred with Alphand's 1min 23.69sec, had moved into third place. An edge entered Alphand's voice. "I really hope someone comes and pins Ortlieb from third place," he said. When Locher's time flashed up on the board and revealed that he had done just that, Alphand thrust his arm into the air and said "yes" vehemently.

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### ATHLETICS

## Medals garnered by rekindled spirits

AFTER she had led the Great Britain women's team to unexpected bronze medals in the European cross country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on Sunday, it was put to Hayley Haining that she could surely count herself included for the world championships in March, unless she had a disaster. (David Powell writes). "But I am good at disasters," she responded.

Haining, ninth, and Andrea Whitcombe, fifteenth, were the leading two British women home, both having risen from the sporting grave. Haining finished ahead of Paula Radcliffe in the 1991 world junior championships. What might she have achieved by now but for an assortment of injuries since? Radcliffe was not far off

pressure on me here. I am looking forward to Val Gardena this weekend, where I will not be under as much pressure. If I can win just one race, then I would like it to be in Sestriere." He was referring to the downhill in the world championships in Italy in February.

### SNOOKER

## Clouds lift as Sullivan reveals his sunny side

SEVEN months ago, Ronnie O'Sullivan was branded the game's latest *enfant terrible* after assaulting an official at the Embassy world championship (Phil Yates writes). By capturing the German Open title on Sunday, he took a further step along the path to rehabilitation.

O'Sullivan, who defeated Alain Robidoux 9-7 in an entertaining final in Osna-brück, not only collected a first prize of £40,000 but also supplied compelling evidence that he is a reformed character, on and off the table.

Ironically, the first seeds of O'Sullivan's fall from grace at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield in April were sown when he played a number of shots left-handed during a first

round victory over Robidoux. They sparked a bitter exchange of words in which O'Sullivan's comments were as bad as his play. On Sunday, O'Sullivan was clearly determined to bury the hatchet. His handshake was warm, his face showed a genuine desire for reconciliation.

A player fined £20,000 and given a suspended one-year ban for lashing out at the world championship is again displaying the sunny disposition that endeared him to all when he turned professional in the summer of 1992 — and his form has improved along with his demeanour.

FINAL R. O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 9-7. Frame scores (C/S): 9-7, 9-8, 9-9, 9-10, 9-11, 9-12, 9-13, 9-14, 9-15, 9-16, 9-17, 9-18, 9-19, 9-20, 9-21, 9-22, 9-23, 9-24, 9-25, 9-26, 9-27, 9-28, 9-29, 9-30, 9-31, 9-32, 9-33, 9-34, 9-35, 9-36, 9-37, 9-38, 9-39, 9-40, 9-41, 9-42, 9-43, 9-44, 9-45, 9-46, 9-47, 9-48, 9-49, 9-50, 9-51, 9-52, 9-53, 9-54, 9-55, 9-56, 9-57, 9-58, 9-59, 9-60, 9-61, 9-62, 9-63, 9-64, 9-65, 9-66, 9-67, 9-68, 9-69, 9-70, 9-71, 9-72, 9-73, 9-74, 9-75, 9-76, 9-77, 9-78, 9-79, 9-80, 9-81, 9-82, 9-83, 9-84, 9-85, 9-86, 9-87, 9-88, 9-89, 9-90, 9-91, 9-92, 9-93, 9-94, 9-95, 9-96, 9-97, 9-98, 9-99, 9-100, 9-101, 9-102, 9-103, 9-104, 9-105, 9-106, 9-107, 9-108, 9-109, 9-110, 9-111, 9-112, 9-113, 9-114, 9-115, 9-116, 9-117, 9-118, 9-119, 9-120, 9-121, 9-122, 9-123, 9-124, 9-125, 9-126, 9-127, 9-128, 9-129, 9-130, 9-131, 9-132, 9-133, 9-134, 9-135, 9-136, 9-137, 9-138, 9-139, 9-140, 9-141, 9-142, 9-143, 9-144, 9-145, 9-146, 9-147, 9-148, 9-149, 9-150, 9-151, 9-152, 9-153, 9-154, 9-155, 9-156, 9-157, 9-158, 9-159, 9-160, 9-161, 9-162, 9-163, 9-164, 9-165, 9-166, 9-167, 9-168, 9-169, 9-170, 9-171, 9-172, 9-173, 9-174, 9-175, 9-176, 9-177, 9-178, 9-179, 9-180, 9-181, 9-182, 9-183, 9-184, 9-185, 9-186, 9-187, 9-188, 9-189, 9-190, 9-191, 9-192, 9-193, 9-194, 9-195, 9-196, 9-197, 9-198, 9-199, 9-200, 9-201, 9-202, 9-203, 9-204, 9-205, 9-206, 9-207, 9-208, 9-209, 9-210, 9-211, 9-212, 9-213, 9-214, 9-215, 9-216, 9-217, 9-218, 9-219, 9-220, 9-221, 9-222, 9-223, 9-224, 9-225, 9-226, 9-227, 9-228, 9-229, 9-230, 9-231, 9-232, 9-233, 9-234, 9-235, 9-236, 9-237, 9-238, 9-239, 9-240, 9-241, 9-242, 9-243, 9-244, 9-245, 9-246, 9-247, 9-248, 9-249, 9-250, 9-251, 9-252, 9-253, 9-254, 9-255, 9-256, 9-257, 9-258, 9-259, 9-260, 9-261, 9-262, 9-263, 9-264, 9-265, 9-266, 9-267, 9-268, 9-269, 9-270, 9-271, 9-272, 9-273, 9-274, 9-275, 9-276, 9-277, 9-278, 9-279, 9-280, 9-281, 9-282, 9-283, 9-284, 9-285, 9-286, 9-287, 9-288, 9-289, 9-290, 9-291, 9-292, 9-293, 9-294, 9-295, 9-296, 9-297, 9-298, 9-299, 9-300, 9-301, 9-302, 9-303, 9-304, 9-305, 9-306, 9-307, 9-308, 9-309, 9-310, 9-311, 9-312, 9-313, 9-314, 9-315, 9-316, 9-317, 9-318, 9-319, 9-320, 9-321, 9-322, 9-323, 9-324, 9-325, 9-326, 9-327, 9-328, 9-329, 9-330, 9-331, 9-332, 9-333, 9-334, 9-335, 9-336, 9-337, 9-338, 9-339, 9-340, 9-341, 9-342, 9-343, 9-344, 9-345, 9-346, 9-347, 9-348, 9-349, 9-350, 9-351, 9-352, 9-353, 9-354, 9-355, 9-356, 9-357, 9-358, 9-359, 9-360, 9-361, 9-362, 9-363, 9-364, 9-365, 9-366, 9-367, 9-368, 9-369, 9-370, 9-371, 9-372, 9-373, 9-374, 9-375, 9-376, 9-377, 9-378, 9-379, 9-380, 9-381, 9-382, 9-383, 9-384, 9-385, 9-386, 9-387, 9-388, 9-389, 9-390, 9-391, 9-392, 9-393, 9-394, 9-395, 9-396, 9-397, 9-398, 9-399, 9-400, 9-401, 9-402, 9-403, 9-404, 9-405, 9-406, 9-407, 9-408, 9-409, 9-410, 9-411, 9-412, 9-413, 9-414, 9-415, 9-416, 9-417, 9-418, 9-419, 9-420, 9-421, 9-422, 9-423, 9-424, 9-425, 9-426, 9-427, 9-428, 9-429, 9-430, 9-431, 9-432, 9-433, 9-434, 9-435, 9-436, 9-437, 9-438, 9-439, 9-440, 9-441, 9-442, 9-443, 9-444, 9-445, 9-446, 9-447, 9-448, 9-449, 9-450, 9-451, 9-452, 9-453, 9-454, 9-455, 9-456, 9-457, 9-458, 9-459, 9-460, 9-461, 9-462, 9-463, 9-464, 9-465, 9-466, 9-467, 9-468, 9-469, 9-470, 9-471, 9-472, 9-473, 9-474, 9-475, 9-476, 9-477, 9-478, 9-479, 9-480, 9-481, 9-482, 9-483, 9-484, 9-485, 9-486, 9-487, 9-488, 9-489, 9-490, 9-491, 9-492, 9-493, 9-494, 9-495, 9-496, 9-497, 9-498, 9-499, 9-500, 9-501, 9-502, 9-503, 9-504, 9-505, 9-506, 9-507, 9-508, 9-509, 9-510, 9-511, 9-512, 9-513, 9-514, 9-515, 9-516, 9-517, 9-518, 9-519, 9-520, 9-521, 9-522, 9-523, 9-524

# It ain't necessarily so, but it just might be

**I**magination doesn't often get a credit in science documentaries. When it does — as in last night's *Horizon*: *Noah's Flood* (BBC2) — the mention tends to be apologetic. However, two respectable American earth scientists decided to employ their imaginations, it seems, to locate a real site for the mythical flood mentioned in the Epic of Gilgamesh as well as the Bible. And they were deemed OK by other scientists, so we could stop worrying. They made no specific references to rain, arks, cubits or doves, incidentally, but their theory sounded convincing. When sea levels rose, around seven thousand years ago, salt water surged through the Bosphorus and flooded the basin (formerly holding a fresh-water lake) that we now know as the Black Sea. And of course the indigenous people yelled "Hey! Make like a diaspora!", and scattered.

*Noah's Flood* was admittedly a

bit hard to follow, at times. In the process of proving their hypothesis, Walter Pitman and Bill Ryan removed long cylindrical "cores" from the bed of the Black Sea, and cut them open — and though I said dutifully "Oh" and "Ah", I couldn't really understand what the solid sludge revealed. All I knew was that whenever a balancing sceptical comment was elicited from a woman Oxford historian, I automatically took sides with the guys with the drilling gear. This historian, presumably a Gilgamesh expert, smoothly pooh-poohed their discoveries from the comfort of a pleasant room, with a garden dawning in the window behind. Somehow or other, she lost sympathy before she opened her mouth.

The best moment was filmed at Niagara. Of the two scientists, Walter was the "character". He habitually wore reading glasses tilted against his forehead, like a clerk in Dickens. At Niagara, fe-

tooned in larks oilskins, he pointed to the falls and yelled above the roar that the volume of water tumbling into the Black Sea would have been 1,000 times greater than what was flowing here. "How do you know?" asked an unseeen interviewer. Walter was astonished by the question, and affronted too. "I calculated it," he said. "What do you mean, how do I know? I calculated it!" And, of course, there was no answer to that.

**E**lsewhere last night imagination was put to other uses. Enid Blyton, the subject of *Secret Lives* (Channel 4), used it to block our pain, of course, and very successfully too. Rarely has a documentary cried out so loudly for the services of *Rental-Shrink*, without result. Blyton was revealed as a rigorously divided personality — the writer, who trilled in print about her happy home and dear children; and

the woman, who hardly recognised her progeny if she met them at the bathroom door. The interesting question, of course, was whether she believed what she wrote, while writing it. Since her imagination was her happiest place, I have absolutely no doubt she did.

Most of us knew a lot about Enid Blyton already — *Bookmarks'* dramatised biography, with Mamee Lipman, wasn't broadcast so

very long ago. But here we had the testimonies of Blyton's well-known daughters who disagree about their childhood, one surviving with a benign smile, the other a stony-faced casualty. We had the gardener's daughter, too, who bitterly catalogued Blyton's cruelties and misdemeanours, without understanding the concept of denial, which explained the whole lot. When Blyton's dog died, I'll, for example, the great writer refused to accept it; when he died, she continued to write his adventures as if nothing had happened. Was this plain hypocrisy, really? Or was it something else?

A couple of things were annoying in Sally George's film. The old-fashioned typewriter may have been a nice device, but a faster typist might surely have been found. Enid Blyton produced 10,000 words a day, after all. Hunt-and-peck was probably not her style. The other glaring omission was Blyton's child-readers, who would hardly be difficult to trace. What effect did Blyton's stories have on them — written, as they were, from a peculiarly wounded psyche? Evidently her escapist stories (in which the miseries of family life played no part) touched a common chord, but objectively speaking they are still very, very weird.

**F**inally, *Giving Tongue* (BBC2) was the last of the Monday night "Wicked Women" films, and I can't say I'm sorry. They have been exhausting to watch. Last night's was written by Emma Fortune and directed by Stefan Schwartz — not a name I knew before — and watching it was a constant struggle to suspend a disbelief which kept crashing down like heavy paper chains. I mean, can you really park a horse-box in Parliament Square, while you pop into the House to see

a chum? The IRA should be informed at once. Meanwhile the similarly lip-nibbling plot concerned a new girl Labour MP (in a new Labour government) whose Private Member's Bill to abolish hunting is ultimately passed by both Houses, much to the particular consternation of her lesbian former lover, Barb, who is employed by a "Master". Does it sound silly when it's put like that? Mm, yes, I suppose it does.

On the plus side, Charlotte Coleman was great as Barb, in fact, all the actors earned their salt. Warren Clarke dignified a miserable role — as Commons clerk, he was obliged to explain to the viewer (by means of a conveniently ignorant new boy) how parliamentary procedure worked. "We walk the Bill UP" and "We walk the Bill DOWN" isn't much of a part, but with the right wig, the right face, and the right tone of glee, the thing can come alive.

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

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Most of us knew a lot about Enid Blyton already — *Bookmarks'* dramatised biography, with Mamee Lipman, wasn't broadcast so

BBC2	
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (07104)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (28475)	
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (1737345)	
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4676765)	
9.45 KILROY (6402814)	
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Ainsley Harriott (97320)	
11.00 NEWS and weather (3102098)	
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5196611)	
11.45 MILLIE'S PEOPLE (1032202) 12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (1738685)	
12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (T) (3149659)	
12.50 A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE Last in series (n) (3052456)	
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (21562)	
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (28386162)	
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (2855308) 2.00 Call My Bluff (7765) 2.30 The Terrace (727)	
2.00 INCOGNITO (6272)	
3.30 REMINGTON (6429683) 3.40 Romuald, the Reindeer (1037814) 3.50 The All-New Popeye Show (T) (57982) 4.10 Oscar's Orchestra (T) (1634920) 4.35 It'll Never Work (T) (7240233) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5084894) 5.10 The BIZ (T) (8380901)	
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (359901)	
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (455)	
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (956)	
7.00 HOLIDAY Jill Dando samples a stay-and-cruise package starting in the Dominican Republic. Sunkha Ghu stays in a hillside villa on Corsica. Sue Cook takes her young daughter to the Finnish Lake District. Monty Don takes an inexpensive luxury break in Brighton and John Holdsworth spends a week in a Scottish castle (T) (8253)	
7.30 EASTENDERS Peggy receives some friendly visitors and Grant and Tiffany's evening ends in disaster (T) (920)	
8.00 999 LIVESAVERS A special edition focusing on the growing problem of youth suicides. Last in series (T) (7901)	
8.30 A QUESTION OF SPORT Another round of the sporting quiz chaired by David Coleman (T) (6036)	
9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (7746)	
9.30 ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES Deli Extraction As Christmas approaches, Del is struck down with raging toothache and Rodney is in shock after Cassandra announces that she wants to start a family (T) (7305630) WALES: Peaseas Jim 10.00 Only Fools and Horses 11.25 Football: Wrexham v Scunthorpe 11.55 Birth of Horace 12.45am Frankenstein — The True Story (210am News)	
10.55 PRESENT NIGHTMARE Birth of Horror The first of a four-part series examining the macabre legends of Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and The Hound of the Baskervilles. Tonight, Christopher Frayling examines Frankenstein (346411)	
11.45 FRANKENSTEIN — THE TRUE STORY The first of a two-part adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic tale (T) (8204565)	
1.10 am WEATHER (9482128)	

BBC2	
6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Census (750900) 6.25 Spring in Silence (750777) 6.30 Mind Readers (951727)	
7.15 Sea Hear News (2816314) 7.20 Legend of Prince Valiant (5748029) 7.50 Blue Peter (5742814) 8.15 Johnson and Friends (5487263) 8.25 Spot (5478233) 8.35 The Record (5678222) 9.00 Complete Guide to the 20th Century (157320) 9.10 Il Poverello: The Story of Francis of Assisi (5298814) 10.00 Playdays (2246785) 10.25 The Fugitive (8073340) 11.15 Phil Silvers Show (3472348) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (3757235) 12.00 Sea Heart (66514) 12.30pm Working Lunch (14165) 1.00 Spot (8207927) 1.05 Johnson and Friends (5054423) 1.15 FILM: The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945, b/w) with George Sanders. Chilling version of Oscar Wilde's classic tale of a 19th-Century sophisticate who sells his soul for eternal youth. Directed by Albert Lewin (7237814) 3.00 Today's the Day (94908) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (853) 5.00 Oprah Winfrey Show (4419001) 5.40 I'm Still a Tourist (8897001) 5.50 A Week to Remember (bw) (245215)	
6.00 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (232659)	
6.25 HEARTBREAK HIGH (T) (228340)	
7.10 THE O ZONE (976185)	
7.30 THE VERDICT: The Outsider The work of Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor. Last in series (T) (562)	
8.00 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE Charing Cross medical students take on Glamorgan (T) (5543)	
8.30 FOOD AND DRINK CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Wines to accompany turkey, and an alternative to Christmas pudding (T) (176233)	
9.10 MURDER MOST HORRID An Essex gangland boss is used as a vehicle for detection by two detectives with very different interviewing techniques. With Deon French and Minnie Driver. Last in series (T) (T) (21104)	
9.30 THE SEVENTH WONDER OF THE WORLD The rediscovery of the ancient lighthouse of Alexandria (94272)	
10.30 NEWSIGHT (T) (804543)	
11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (143888)	
11.25 PICTURE THIS (98730)	
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (81416)	
12.30pm-6.00 THE LEARNING ZONE Open University: Powers of the President (16224) 1.30 World of the Dragon (48876) 2.00 Believing: The Long Search (32499) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning With It (28741) 4.30 Unseen in the Classroom (12963) 5.00 Inside Europe (97166) 5.30 Film Education (82147)	

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## RUGBY UNION 36

Ashton's future  
as coach of  
Bath in doubt

# SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

## Chaos as Formula One stands accused



Williams on trial

IT HAS been a long time coming but last night Formula One racing finally got the bad news it had been dreading. On February 20 next year, barely two weeks before the start of the new season, Frank Williams and five other men will be brought to trial on manslaughter charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in May 1994.

To some, perhaps even some in the Williams team, the news will come as a relief, a preliminary indication that we may be about to find out what really happened in those few seconds before Senna's Williams-Renault hit the wall at the Tamburello corner in the San Marino Grand Prix and his helmet was pierced by a metal suspension rod.

It is better than his death should be shrouded in rumour and

innuendo for years to come, fertile ground for ever-widening speculation. Patrick Head, the Williams technical director and another of those indicted, has already spoken of his desire to take the stand to disprove the theory that one of the greatest grand prix drivers was killed because of the failure of a weld on his car's steering column.

Last night, though, Formula One was in turmoil, bracing itself for a season of chaos with other teams running scared of appearing at the two Italian races scheduled for next year lest any misfortune should befall their drivers.

Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director and one of the most influential men in the sport, has already threatened to withdraw both Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger from the San Marino Grand Prix on

### Charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna could have considerable impact says Oliver Holt

April 27 and the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on September 7.

"I would not risk bringing my team to a country that can convict you for an accident," Briatore said recently at the Bologna Motor Show. "Fatality is part of the game as well." Briatore, an Italian, also owns the Ligier team, which would put its participation at the events in doubt as well.

There was no comment last night from either Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) or Bernie Ecclestone, the president of Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA), but Ken Tyrrell, the

veteran team owner, hinted that other teams would be nervous about racing in Italy in the light of last night's developments.

"The fact that this can happen to the Williams team," Tyrrell said, "a professional team where every screw and nut and bolt is secured, a team with a reliability record that is impeccable, raises the question 'what chance is there for the rest of us?' If an accident can happen to them, it can happen to anybody. I have no doubt that the teams will be getting together to decide what action to take. It is a matter of great concern because it could affect motor racing around the world."

The Williams team's lawyer, Roberto Causo, would not confirm whether Williams, Head and Adrian Newey, the chief designer of Senna's car, would appear at the trial which will be held in Imola. A conviction for manslaughter under Italian law, which requires that someone be held responsible for any violent death, carries a maximum prison sentence of five years. Most of those found guilty, though, receive suspended sentences.

The Williams team, who had been expecting the news for the past ten days, released an official statement from its headquarters in Grove, Oxfordshire, regretting the news of the charges. "We do not believe that the charges are well founded," it said, "and intend to do all that is necessary to defend our position."

Federico Bordinetti, an official of

the company that runs the track, Giorgio Foggi, director of the track at the time of the accident, and Roland Bruunserade, the director of that season's Formula One races were the other people accused.

The charges have caused consternation throughout the sport because there is no precedent for them. Colin Chapman, the owner of the Lotus team, was pressured by the Italian authorities after the death of his driver, Jochen Rindt, at Monza in 1970. He did not return the following year and Lotus raced under the name Worldwide Racing for that grand prix before things returned to normal.

Some form of compromise may be reached this year, too, of course, but last night the 1997 Formula One season was shrouded under a dark cloud before it had even begun.

Tour party down to 13 fit players

## England options restricted by injury to Irani

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

ENGLAND, struggling to maintain morale after a disheartening start to their winter tour, may be choosing from only 13 available players when the first Test match against Zimbabwe begins here tomorrow. Ronni Irani, the party's one all-rounder, was yesterday taken to hospital in Harare for X-rays on his lower back. If they revealed that damage had been done, he will return home and a replacement will be summoned.

Irani left the field complaining of back pain on the final day of England's match with Matabeleland last Friday and although he soon returned, he had bowled earlier. He underwent fitness tests before the first one-day international on Sunday — which England lost by two wickets — and declared himself able to play, but made little impact on the game.

The England management,

understandably disappointed that Irani said he was 100 per cent fit and then failed to come through the game successfully, made a swift decision to get to the root of the problem. As David Lloyd, the England coach, said: "The issue is clouded by the fact that the injury is to a pivotal player."

Even if the hospital tests gave Irani the all-clear, the news would not remove one of the main weaknesses of this England party, which is that it does not as yet possess an all-rounder worth his place in the side as batsman and bowler. A fully-fit Irani could, in theory, fulfil that role, but in the first three weeks of the tour, he did little in either department.

If Irani returns home, his replacement will come from the A team that completed an outstanding tour of Australia at the weekend and contained three all-rounders — Craig

White, Adam Hollioake and Mark Ealham. As the most effective bowler of the three, White would be clear favourite to be drafted in, but he could not arrive in time to be considered for the Test match tomorrow.

Irani's injury only highlights the gamble England took in not finding a replacement for Dominic Cork when he withdrew from the tour two days before it started for personal reasons. Lloyd was prepared to concede yesterday that England were a player light for their needs in Zimbabwe, which, perhaps a reflection of the fact that they have found the cricket here more uncompromising than they expected.

To give their side balance for the first Test match, England had already decided to play Alex Stewart as a batsman-wicketkeeper, but Irani could still have featured as one of the seam bowlers, though he has bowled fewer than 40 overs on tour.

His injury may be a legacy of him being obliged to remodel his bowling action two years ago after sustaining serious back damage during his first season with Essex, whom he joined from Lancashire in 1994.

One of the few positive things to come out of the defeat on Sunday was the impressive international debut of Chris Silverwood, who has thus put himself firmly in the frame for the Test match. Silverwood dismissed Grant Flower with the last ball of his first over. Andy Flower in his fifth over and barely bowled a bad ball in ten overs.

"He was asked to bowl line and length and followed his instructions to the letter," Lloyd said yesterday. "He's a no-nonsense cricketer. Off the field, you might think he is just a nice lad, but on it he is aggressive. Under the spotlight and amid all the noise on Sunday, he held up brilliantly."

Plans for Silverwood contrasted starkly with reports of the progress being made by Andy Caddick, who was unexpectedly omitted from the one-day international. "I would like to be impressed," Lloyd said.

Andy Flower, who gave up the captaincy of Zimbabwe earlier this year, has been appointed coach of Oxford University in succession to Les Lenham. Flower has played club and league cricket in England in recent years.

The reason I was angry was because I had built up a good team and then had to start from the beginning again. In the short term, things are not looking so good, but in the long term, it looks pretty good," he said.

In a remarkable twist to what is one of the most unusual "skipper swaps" ever attempted, Smith will continue to work with EF and Cayard until the end of April, as the Swedes continue their two-boat testing and sail development programme at Vilamoura in Portugal.

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team boat has been taken by the top American skipper, Paul Cayard, who is expected to bring him up to five key members of his America's Cup syndicate for the 2000 America's Cup, including John Kostecki.

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